

## Israel to let 6,000 stay in occupied lands

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel will let 6,000 Palestinians swap temporary visitors' permits for permanent permits to live in the occupied territories with their husbands, wives or parents, Israel Radio said Sunday. The Palestinians, who were either born outside the territories or were abroad when Israel invaded in 1967, arrived between 1990 and 1992 on the temporary visitors' permits. The radio said state prosecutors gave the number in reply to a petition before Israel's high court of justice demanding family reunifications. Israeli officials told human rights activists last month that "non-resident" spouses and children who arrived before Sept. 1, 1992, and passed a security check could apply for permanent residency but gave no number. "It's good news but not good enough," said Dalia Kestel, director of Hamoked, an Israeli group campaigning for Palestinian rights. "We hope this gesture will be stretched out to cover more of the groups after the cutoff date," she said. Palestinians married to Palestinians from outside the occupied territories find it virtually impossible to bring their spouses and their children home other than on visitors' permits. The United States has in the past supported change, hoping to build Palestinian confidence in U.S.-brokered peace talks that began 21 months ago.



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## Kuwait launches wide graft probe campaign

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait said Sunday it was setting up committees to check all state records related to public money dealings, the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. Minister of Public Health and Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abdul Wahab Al Fawzan told KUNA the step was taken following a request submitted by the Finance Ministry. The committees will examine all spending authorisation documents and records related to financial dealings in all bodies under the state's financial administration, he said. The government agreed Saturday to pause before making more large weapons purchases after parliamentarians charged with scrutinising state spending said they needed more time to discuss ways of preventing possible corruptions (see page 2).

## Sandinista gunmen seize nine journalists

MANAGUA (AP) — Leftist gunmen holding hostages in the capital said Sunday they had taken nine Nicaraguan journalists as captives. A gunman, who did not identify himself, told Pro-Sandinista radio Ya the journalists were seized early Sunday after media reports identified the commander of the hostagetakers. "The journalists are now hostages," the gunman declared. He was one of about 20 heavily-armed men who raided the headquarters of the centre-right National Opposition Union on Friday, seizing 34 people (see page 8).

## Iran says diplomat beaten by Iraqis

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iranian diplomat severely injured in alleged beatings by Iraqi security forces in Baghdad last week arrived in Tehran Sunday, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency said Mahdi Hussein, the second secretary at the Iranian consulate in Baghdad, was beaten Friday by the Iraqis for reasons which remained unclear. But the incident coincided with a report by the Baghdad-based Iranian opposition group, Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, which said Iranian diplomats allegedly attacked families of the rebels in Baghdad Friday. There has been no comment from Baghdad or the Mujahadeen about the alleged assault on the Iranian diplomat.

## Shots fired at Russian ministry

MOSCOW (R) — Three automatic rifle shots were fired in the early hours of Sunday at a building housing Russia's Information Ministry and a senior aide of President Boris Yeltsin, ministry officials said. The shots hit windows on the second floor of the central Moscow building, where the offices of outgoing Information Minister Mikhail Fedotov (see page 10) and Yeltsin aide Mikhail Potoranin were situated. Asked if he thought the incident was a random act, Mr. Fedotov told Reuters by telephone: "No, it was a criminal act, a very unpleasant incident." There was no immediate evidence as to who had fired the shots.

## German said hiding in Tehran missing

BONN (AFP) — A German national sought by Iranian authorities on charges of arms trafficking fraud has been holed up in the German embassy in Tehran for the past four weeks, the daily Bild Zeitung reported in its Monday edition. The paper said the German, who was not named, was arrested by police on July 5 after being accused of embezzling large sums of money which Iranian authorities had given him to purchase weapons for Bosnian Muslims.

## French fighter crashes in Chad

PARIS (R) — A French fighter jet crashed on Sunday in Chad, killing the pilot after he failed to eject from the cockpit, the army said in a statement. The Jaguar aircraft, stationed with French armed forces operating in Chad, went down northwest of the town of Biltine, it said.

# Majali optimistic 11th round of bilateral talks will see progress

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday expressed optimism that the next round of Arab-Israeli peace talks would produce tangible progress towards achieving a breakthrough in the 21-month-old peace process.

"... I am very optimistic. I believe that the next round of talks will be another step towards progress in the peace talks because we have been assured by the American administration that they want to see concrete progress before the end of this year," Dr. Majali told Jordan Television's "News at Ten."

In an implicit reference to the progress on finalising an agenda for negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track of negotiations, Dr. Majali expressed hope that the Palestinian-Israeli track, the Syrian-Israeli track and the Lebanese-Israeli track will also achieve concrete progress so that Jordan's objective of a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict could be reached.

Mr. Majali was talking to News at Ten after meeting local and foreign journalists at Jordan Television.

In that encounter, Dr. Majali reaffirmed that Jordan would never sign an agenda charting future peace with Israel if its other Arab partners made no progress in separate peace talks with the Jewish state.

"We are going to send our team to Washington next week," he told the meeting.

He gave no details but officials said the delegation to the 11th round of bilateral talks should arrive in Washington on Aug. 28 — a day after foreign ministers of Arab parties to the talks meet in Lebanon to chart negotiating strategy and formally accept the invitation to attend the talks.

"We have said clearly that we will not move ahead (with our agenda) if there is no movement on other tracks because we believe in a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict," Dr. Majali said.

Jordan and Israel are close to agreement on the draft accord which details the basis of future peace between Jordan and Israel in line with U.N. resolutions — what could be the first sign of visible progress in the peace process.

Answering reporters' questions during a discussion on Jordan's information policy, Dr. Majali said the peace process was a "long, complex and a difficult one."

But he said that the negotiations have improved the image of Palestinians worldwide. Dr. Majali said a key problem

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Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali (right) and Information Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar Sunday meet with local and foreign journalists at a



gathering at the Jordan Television station (Photos by Youssef Al 'Allan)

## Israel boosts army in S. Lebanon area

MARIAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israel sent more big guns into its "security zone" in South Lebanon Sunday, three days after guerrillas killed nine Israeli soldiers.

Six self-propelled 155-millimetre artillery pieces crossed the border at dawn, the first reinforcements to arrive since Israel vowed to avenge the killings on Thursday, security sources said.

A Palestinian group later threatened to rocket northern Israel if the Jewish state attacked Lebanon or Palestinian civilian targets.

"We warn the Zionist enemy against any attempt to target the Palestinian camps in Lebanon or target civilians among our Palestinian and Lebanese people because our response to rocket the enemy's northern settlements would be immediate," the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine (IJP) said in a statement.

IJP guerrillas fired Katyushas into northern Israel during a week-long Israeli blitz of southern Lebanon last month.

Israel has said it will hit back for Thursday's attacks, the deadliest since 1985, but its options are limited against Hizbollah.

Security sources rule out a reply similar to July's Israeli air, sea and ground bombardment of the south which killed 130 people, mostly civilians, wounded more than 600 and drove 300,000 from their homes.

U.N. sources said Israel last week completed pulling out extra troops, tanks and artillery pieces it poured into the zone for the offensive after the killing of seven soldiers in July.

Israeli cabinet ministers said Israel will not be drawn into a full-scale assault in South Lebanon in response to the killing of its soldiers last week.

But the ministers did not rule out limited strikes against Hizbollah.

"We have to continue to hit the Hizbollah, every place and everywhere, but to do it in a way not to involve civilians," said Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, a former general and close associate of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Minister's statements appeared to reflect the terms of an Israeli-Syrian-Lebanese accord that ended the Israeli bombardment of South Lebanon last month.

Rabin, army under fire, page 10

## Peres sees accord with Palestinians

HELSINKI (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Monday he believed a peace agreement with the Palestinians was close and he denied that violence in South Lebanon had endangered peace talks.

"Since I believe that we are very, very near to a peace agreement on the Palestinian issue, we would like to make the agreement not just a political change but also an economic success," he told a news conference.

"We are really very near in time, in content, and I think it will come earlier than most people think."

Mr. Peres, visiting Finland as part of an eight-day Nordic trip, said he had suggested to his hosts that they should direct part of their foreign aid assistance to the occupied Gaza Strip to help the Palestinians economically.

"The reaction until now is very favourable," he said. "Now we have to invest in peace as we did previously in defence."

Asked if violence in South Lebanon had hit peace prospects, Mr. Peres said: "No, I don't think so because Hizbollah... is also trying to assassinate the peace process and we're not going to hand over the fate of the peace to the hands of terrorists."

Nine Israeli soldiers were killed by bomb blasts in South Lebanon on Thursday. Hizbollah guerrillas claimed responsibility.

Asked if there were plans to avenge the deaths, Mr. Peres said: "We're not dealing with revenge, we're dealing with prevention... and to get hold of the responsible people for terror."

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Saturday discussion of the status of Arab East Jerusalem, a bone of contention between Israel and the Palestinians at the peace talks, would be raised during interim self-rule.

Mr. Arafat said East Jerusalem, which he called the "capital of the State of Palestine," would be brought up for discussion with the Israelis during the third year of a five-year interim Palestinian self-rule.

"The issue of Jerusalem is not only a Palestinian problem. It is a Palestinian, an Arab, Islamic and Christian issue... he who gives up one grain of Jerusalem... is not one of us," Mr. Arafat told Beirut's Voice of Lebanon radio in a telephone interview.

"The issue of Jerusalem will be raised in the third year of the interim period," the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation said.

## Ex-premier, 4 others killed in Algiers

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Former Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah who once headed the all-powerful political police, was assassinated in an ambush that also killed four others, including his son and brother, security officials said Sunday.

Mr. Merbah and his entourage were attacked with automatic pistol fire by a band of five men while driving in two cars in Algiers, a coastal resort east of the capital, the officials said. Mr. Merbah has a vacation residence in the area, which is 20 kilometres from Algiers.

Mr. Merbah's son, brother, body guard and chauffeur also were killed. The five attackers escaped.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the killings, which came amid a guerrilla-style battle by Islamic extremists trying to topple the military-backed leaders of the country.

Bullet shells recovered at the scene were marked with the initials "IMI," standing for Israel Military Industries, security officials said without elaborating. Israel Military Industries is a cluster of Israeli state-owned factories producing military equipment.

The officials said the weapons used were likely Israeli-made Uzis or Czech-made Scorpions.

The attack, in which four other people also died, took place in front of a college of the road leading to the centre of Algiers in Algiers-Plage.

Three of the attackers fired from in front of the Honda in which Mr. Merbah was.

Two others leapt out from behind the cars to spray bullets into the second vehicle, a Renault 25, which was following some 100 metres behind. The Renault was fired upon as it tried to do a U-turn to escape the attack.

Mr. Merbah, 55, is the second government figure killed in the daily violence that has sapped this troubled country since Muslim fundamentalists lost their bid to take over parliament when elections they were winning were halted by the army in January 1992. A five-man team was installed to run the country.

Mohammad Boudiaf, first president of the ruling High State Council, was assassinated June 29, 1992, but it remains unclear whether Islamic extremists were behind the killing.

Armed extremists were blamed

for attacks on three government ministers at the start of the year. Former Defence Minister Khaled Nezzar, a member of the ruling council, barely escaped a February ambush. Employment Minister Tahar Hamdi was wounded in another attack and Equipments Minister Sifi Mokdad was unharm in an attack.

Armed extremists have been blamed for the killings of a half-dozen noted intellectuals, among more than 1,200 who have died in the violence.

Mr. Merbah headed the government from 1988 to 1989, just after the October 1988 riots that pressed Algeria into a multi-party system. He was fired by then-President Chadli Benjedid for not instituting political reforms with greater speed.

A colonel, Mr. Merbah was head of military security, known as the political police, from 1963 to 1980. The feared security branch was phased out by Mr. Benjedid.

Most recently, he was president of a small nationalist party, the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development.

As much feared as respected,

Mr. Merbah was once a high profile figure in the National Liberation Front, which had ruled Algeria for three decades. He took part in negotiations with France for Algeria's independence in 1962.

The killings came hours after authorities named a new prime minister on Saturday, Redha Malek, who had served as foreign minister, to replace Belaid Abdul Salam. A new government is to be named in a week.

The change is seen as the prelude to a new three-pronged strategy to pull Algeria out of its crisis, hardening the line against the war on extremists, while providing new political and economic options.

Sacked by Mr. Bendjedid, Mr. Merbah at first refused to step down, calling his dismissal unconstitutional. In October 1990, he added to FLN rifts by resigning from its central committee.

A month later, he formed his own political party in the emerging multi-party state.

Mr. Merbah had been a guerrilla leader in Algeria's independence. Kasdi Merbah was his nom de guerre, his real name being Abdullah Khalef.



PRINCE GETS HIS WING: His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Sunday presents a paratrooper's course completion certificate to His Royal Highness Prince Ali. The King decorated Prince Ali with a paratrooper's wing. Commander of the Special Forces also presented Prince Ali with a token gift. The ceremony was attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the military secretary of the King, Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Abdul Miral and senior army officers. King Hussein and Queen Noor watched a free jump by Prince Ali and other Special Forces personnel (GHQ photo)

## Meeting focuses on press 'code of honour,' information strategy

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government Sunday sought to introduce a controversial "code of honour" for the Jordanian information media but immediately met with opposition from journalists.

Some of the opponents said Jordan did not need such a document in view of the existing Press and Publications Law, while others said such a move should be preceded by elaborate dialogue and consultations.

Despite the setback, both Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Information Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar affirmed the government's keen interest in coordinating with the Jordan Press Association (JPA), the umbrella body for journalists in the Kingdom.

Dr. Abu Nowar, at the outset of a meeting with local and foreign journalists at Jordan Television, presented an outline of the proposed code, which could be later enacted as a provision in the Press and Publications Law and the statute of the JPA.

Dr. Abu Nowar said the code, which commits the Jordanian information media to the principles of honesty, good faith, accuracy and objectivity based on individual truth and commitment to obtaining information through legitimate means, was in no means a final document.

He criticised those who have been attacking since he presented it first two weeks ago, saying the opposition to it was not based on principles of democracy or freedom but "simply because it was presented by the minister of information."

He said he had made it clear that the code, which also commits the print media to correcting inaccurate reports, editorials and commentaries upon the request of any party "harmed by their publication, or by choice with the aim of enhancing the papers' credibility and maintaining their

reputation," was subject to the approval of the JPA, and, by extension, by Jordanian journalists themselves.

JPA President Sulaiman Qudah replied that "certain circles" in Jordan and abroad were trying to create an impression that there was a crisis between the Ministry of Information and the JPA over the issue. He said dialogue was continuing between the two sides and there was no crisis.

However, Mr. Qudah indicated that the JPA resented being presented with a "fait accompli." He said the JPA had no objections or reservations over any code of honour for the media, but that the association felt that it should be consulted in advance prior to the releasing of the document in public.

"We have to formally study the proposal and review the entire concept," Dr. Qudah told the Jordan Times after the meeting. "But we cannot accept something that is being imposed on us."

Several other journalists said that in view of the 1993 Press and Publications Law, which clearly defines the legal guidelines for journalists, in terms of gathering news and reporting as well as consequences of inaccurate reports and articles seen as libel, there was no need for a further code of honour.

Others said if indeed there was a need for such a document, then extensive discussions and consultations between the journalists and the concerned authorities should precede its finalisation and formalisation.

Dr. Abu Nowar said he spent two months preparing the "code of honour" for the press and that he had presented it to His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the prime minister, former ministers and all chief editors, in addition to the JPA and requested their feedback.

The strategy is valid until the end of this year when a new strategy incorporating all reactions and feedback will be worked out for the year 1994.

Dr. Abu Nowar said the new strategy comes in implementation of King Hussein's directives, which stressed the need for a strategy defending freedom, democracy and human rights.

Dr. Majali addressed the gathering and said the media should respect a number of principles so that it can be effective and convincing to friends and enemies alike.

"Free expression" is the first of these principles, he said, noting that the "written word is stronger than the sword" and therefore should be carefully selected.

Urging journalists and information officials to deal very carefully with their work, Dr. Majali said that the media should adopt and rely more on documentation and accurate information.

Stressing the need for the creation of a specialised centre for information and archives, Dr. Majali said that this endeavour should be shouldered by the private as well as the public sectors. "Do not depend on the public sector and make demands on it all the time," he said.

Dr. Majali admitted that all the "means of deterrence and oppression will not do" in the face of the inflow of hostile media reports from outside through all modern technological means, especially TV transmission through satellite. He said that only through strengthening the means of education and media could this cultural invasion be checked. Although the prime minister thought that ordinary people can always tell good from bad and he urged journalists to be credible and seek the truth.

One of the other principles which ought to be respected, he said, is perfection and creativity in the media and information work.

The strategy is valid until the end of this year when a new

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## Iraq says it will resist attacks by U.S. planes

BAGHDAD (R) — The ruling Baath Party newspaper said Sunday Iraq would resist any further air strike by U.S. planes patrolling "no-fly" zones in the north and south of the country.

"The Iraqi's bullets, defending their life and sovereignty... will not succumb to an arrogant power (U.S.)... now using a number of planes in a stupid manner," the newspaper Al Thawra said in a front-page editorial.

U.S. planes bombed an anti-aircraft battery in northern Iraq on Thursday. The strike came after patrolling aircraft observed a missile launch from a surface-to-air battery, the Pentagon said.

Iraq denied firing first, but for the first time in seven months said it opened up on the attackers and chased them off.

Al Thawra said Iraq's return of fire "disturbed the colonial political mind of America which is delaying its confession of weakness to confront Iraq."

Iraqi statements also struck a harsher note after relatively mild comments on previous incidents, describing the raid as "a vicious aggression."

Al Thawra said the U.S. administration "was terrified because its aggressive planes dropping flares and cluster bombs were met by fierce Iraqi fire."

"Nothing proves the impotence of the U.S. administration more than the will of Iraq... and its determination to confront American riotousness," Al Thawra said.

American, British and French planes patrol Iraq to enforce "no-fly" zones decreed by the West after the 1991 Gulf war to protect dissident Shiites in the south and rebel Kurds in the north.

But Al Thawra said the Western-protected, Kurdish enclave in the north "is wearing out and about to collapse."

Iraqi defuse American cluster bombs, page 2

## 'Trend' among Islamists is to take part in elections

By Rana Sabbagh Reuter

AMMAN — Jordan's powerful Muslim fundamentalist front will decide on Thursday whether to take part in the first multi-party general election since 1956, an official said.

"The dangers of taking part in the election and of boycotting it are equal," an official of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party told Reuters Sunday.

"But barring any last moment surprises, the dominating trend in the front now is to take part in the vote instead of risking its exclusion from the country's political life."

(Continued on page 10)







## Queen Noor celebrates birthday

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor celebrates her 42nd birthday today (Monday).

For the past 15 years, Queen Noor has actively promoted socio-economic and human development in Jordan. On the international level, she has endeavoured to promote understanding of Jordanian society and culture, acting as a bridge between Jordan and the rest of the world.

On the national level, Queen Noor works in partnership with various organisations and individuals on development projects. In addition, the Queen initiates, directs and sponsors projects and activities through the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), which seeks to address the needs of individuals and communities and to enhance their standard of living.

The NHF acts as an umbrella organisation for projects designed as development models in the areas of education, culture, children's health, family and community development, women, environmental protection and the arts.

Through income-generating schemes in micro-enterprise projects, agriculture and crafts, the foundation encourages increased economic self-sufficiency as well as grassroots participation in planning and decision-making.

During the past year, Queen Noor addressed Jordan's increasing social and economic pressures in light of the Gulf crisis. Accelerating human development and economic growth through tailored projects have been a priority for the Queen.

In recognition of her humanitarian work in support of women and children in Jordan, Queen Noor was presented the Save the Children Distinguished Service Award in Washington D.C. last May.

In the field of education, the Queen launched the Jubilee School project, which is de-



signed to provide opportunities for students with outstanding academic records through extensive research and training programmes. The school has received technical assistance and support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the British Council, as well as from private institutions in Jordan and abroad.

The Jubilee School project has been a personal commitment of the Queen since she was entrusted with the project in 1985.

Queen Noor's efforts extended beyond the boundaries of Jordan, as she actively pursued her role to strengthen and enhance Jordan's international relations. During several working trips to the United States and Europe, the Queen addressed various international

institutions, highlighting Jordan's importance as a political, humanitarian and socio-economic model in the Middle East.

In the international arena, Queen Noor focused on furthering human rights, regional development and cooperation, and comprehensive peace. In her efforts to promote tourism into Jordan, she participated in the International Tourism Exchange in Berlin last March.

Queen Noor holds a degree in architecture and urban planning from Princeton University.

She has received honorary doctorates from many universities as well as international awards for her achievements in promoting human development and global understanding.

The Queen is also patron of several national and international organisations.

## Heat wave to stay on for 4 more days

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The present heat wave is expected to continue for at least the next four days, with daytime temperatures ranging between 34 and 36 centigrade, according to the Department of Meteorology.

A department official told the Jordan Times that although in some areas of Jordan the recent weather is slightly hotter than the annual average, generally this is normal summer weather for Jordan.

The heat wave is caused by dry hot wind from the Indian sub-continent, Iran and Iraq, noted the official.

Because of the current heat-wave and reported cases of cholera in neighbouring Arab countries, the Ministry of Health is taking strict precautionary measures to protect the public.

Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Sunday said that not a single cholera case exist in Jordan, but the ministry is taking extra measures to prevent the disease from entering the country.

Ministry teams are conducting large-scale inspections of water trucks to ensure that the water is free of any germs, said the minister in a statement to Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

Noting that cleanliness plays a major role in stemming the spread of the disease, Dr. Malhas said that the ministry has worked out a strict timetable for controlling bakeries, confectionery shops and other food stores to ensure they are abiding by health safety regulations.

Referring to typhoid, the minister said that the disease exists, but not a single case has been reported for the past five weeks in Jordan.

## Majali urges building railway system

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan should have its own railway system and such an endeavour should be implemented in cooperation with the private sector, said Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday.

"We want to have railways and we will give priority to building them to link Jordanian cities," said Dr. Majali during a visit to the Ministry of Transport where he met with Minister Salman Al Tarawneh and senior staff.

A preliminary study should first be made and then offered to the private sector firms to conduct a feasibility study before this project can be implemented, added the prime minister.

Noting that road accidents in Jordan are costing the country some JD 100 million annually, Dr. Majali said the Ministry of Transport should opt for increased public transportation mainly benefiting the limited-income groups.

He said Jordan should reduce its reliance on private cars as much as possible.

The only railway in Jordan is the Hijaz line built during the Ottoman rule to link Damascus with the holy cities of the Hijaz. Part of the railway today links Amman with Damascus, another links Amman with Maan and a third links the phosphate mines in the south with Aqaba.

Dr. Majali also suggested that large road vehicle weights should be controlled and maritime trans-



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday reviews ideas to upgrade Jordan's public transportation system at a meeting with officials. (Jordan Times photo)

port should be attended to.

"We plan to work hand in hand with the private sector to establish a special institution that would organise the employment of Jordanian workforce abroad," he noted, adding that such an institution can protect workers' interests and rights.

In discussing the work of the transport ministry, the prime minister said: "We are not rulers but rather servants of the public

and each ministry is a servant to the public and not a means for imposing authority on the public. This is our concept of public services and each ministry should dedicate its task to fulfil this concept."

As the government directs its plans towards enhancing the concept of decentralisation, the Ministry of Transport and other ministries should be flexible, transfer part of the authority to

departments in the provinces to conduct dialogues with concern departments to overcome problems and obstacles, urged Al Majali.

At the outset of the meeting, Mr. Tarawneh reviewed the ministry's activities and those of its affiliated departments and their plans for the 1993-97 period.

Discussion also covered the involvement of the private sector in the transport field.

## Jordan Press Foundation to double capital

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Press Foundation Company, which publishes the Jordan Times and its sister Arabic daily Al Ra'i, is doubling its JD 1 million capital through a floatation of shares to finance an ambitious expansion programme.

A general assembly meeting of the stockholders of the company is expected to decide today the modality of the capital boost, which will be channelled to repaying a JD 3.5 million loan the foundation has raised from a consortium of local banks and a semi-government agency.

The loan financed the purchase of a new printing machine and related equipment which were necessary to cope with the "increasing demands on Al Ra'i in terms of news and advertisement," said Mohammad Al Amad, director-general of the foundation.

Mr. Amad said the new machine, "which will take Al Ra'i to the edge of the 21st century," can print up to 64 full pages in one go. The present Al Ra'i machine could print only 32 pages, which explains the current 16-22 page "supplement" that accompanies the paper every week day.

Al Ra'i is Jordan's most favourite advertisement medium because it is the largest selling newspaper (100,000 copies) and this accounts for the bulk of the foundation's revenues. The company also operates a commercial printing press.

The foundation has nearly 350 people on its regular payroll.

In addition to the new printing machine, the company is also ordering new equipment which will automate the packing and bundling of newspapers, a time-consuming job if done manually.

The foundation, which was established in the early seventies, registered a gross turnover of JD 5.5 million and a net profit of JD 1.5 million in 1992. It distributed a 22 per cent dividend on stock, a rate which placed it in the top brackets of public limited companies in Jordan.

The JD 1 par-value share of the company is being traded at around JD 20 in the Amman Financial Market (AFM) up from around JD 4 in 1990.

The government-guided Social Security Corporation (SSC) and Jordan Investments Corporation own 61 per cent of the shares; five to 10 per cent are in the AFM, employees own five per cent and the rest



Mohammad Al Amad

is held by the founders of the establishment.

Unlike the Jordan Press and Publishing Company, owners of Al Dustour, the second largest newspaper in the Kingdom, the Jordan Press Foundation shares were not fully returned to their former owners when the government relinquished editorial control over all daily newspapers after a 17-month takeover in 1989.

Mr. Amad told the Jordan Times yesterday that under the formula for boosting capital under consideration, a JD 900,000 special reserve will be converted into half a million shares and the present stock-

holders will be given half a share for every full share that they own now.

Another half a million shares will be floated at the JD 1 par value plus a premium to be fixed by the Ministry of Industry and Trade on the basis of the worth of the company, profitability and the market value of the present shares of the foundation.

The share floatation is expected to raise up to JD 1 million, which will take care of the loans that the foundation owes to the consortium and financing the construction of a new building which is already under way.

"The shareholders will be the ultimate beneficiaries of the plan since we will be able to repay the bank loans and eliminate interest," said Mr. Amad.

The four banks in the consortium are the Arab Bank, the Cairo-Amman Bank, the Business Bank and the Amman Bank for Investments. The fifth partner in the group is the SSC.

Monday's meeting will decide whether to limit the floatation of the half a million shares to present shareholders or to the general public. Most of the board members and shareholders are known to favour limiting it.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Nursing conference to open Sept. 13

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, an international nursing conference will open at the University of Jordan on Sept. 13. The conference, which will be held under the motto "bridging the gap between theoretical work and practice," is organised by the university's Faculty of Nursing. Rapporteur of the conference's preparatory committee Sawwan Al Majali said the participants in the two-day conference will discuss 35 working papers on theoretical and practical issues in nursing. The conference will include a seminar on women's issues in Jordan, Dr. Majali said. She added that the working papers at the conference will be presented by nursing specialists and experts from Arab and European countries, as well as the United States.

### Therapy college board reviews role

AMMAN (Petra) — The Board of Directors of the Professional Therapy College Sunday held a meeting under the chairmanship of Her Highness Princess Majda Ra'ad, the chairman of the college's board. The board stressed the need for identifying professional therapy, and defining its role in psychological rehabilitation. They also reviewed the college's activities. The meeting was attended by Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas and Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Sqour. The college was established in 1983 as one of the projects of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS). It offers students three years of training, after which they are awarded diplomas in professional therapy.

### Public holiday Aug. 30

AMMAN (Petra) — Monday August 30, marking the anniversary of the birthday of the Prophet Mohammad, will be observed as a public holiday, according to an announcement by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday. The announcement said that all government departments and public institutions will remain closed on that day. It requested that all ministries and institutions organise celebrations marking this holy event.

### Radio, T.V. programmes to be aired at schools

AMMAN (J.T.) — With the start of the 1993-94 scholastic year, the Ministry of Education is preparing radio and television educational programmes for school students. A ministry announcement Sunday said the programmes will be aired beginning the first week of September. A timetable for the educational broadcasts was sent to the education departments in the various governorates, so that the school can adjust their schedules accordingly, enabling the students to benefit from the programmes, said the announcement. At least 1.35 million students Saturday returned to school following the summer holidays. About 52,000 teachers are employed in the public and private schools, said the ministry, noting that the increase in the number of school students this year is between four and five per cent.



A sign over an ARAMEX International Courier office in Amman announces the company's participation in a "Smoke-Free Day" drive.

## 2 international firms plan 'Smoke-Free Day'

AMMAN (J.T.) — All ARAMEX and Marriott employees will Tuesday put out their cigarettes for one day as part of a special "Smoke-Free Day" celebration, which will culminate in a presentation by the National Jordanian Anti-Smoking Society at the Amman Marriott Hotel at 7 p.m.

ARAMEX International Courier, which specialises in express delivery of documents and cargo worldwide, recently declared their Jordan offices smoke-free in recognition of smoking's dangerous health effects to smokers and non-smokers. This new "Smoke-Free" policy will soon be implemented in ARAMEX offices around the globe, according to an ARAMEX spokesman.

The "Smoke-Free Day" is one of the activities supported by the National Jordanian Anti-Smoking Society, Society President and cardiologist Zuhair Malhas, along with his colleagues, Jamal Sunna and Azmi Sharaiha will speak about effects of smoking on one's health and how to quit.

Participants in the "Smoke-Free Day" will donate the cost of a pack of cigarettes to support of the society and Al Amal Cancer Centre.

Prizes and certificates will be awarded to those who quit smoking for the day.

All at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.

### JERUSALEM FESTIVAL

- ★ Tradition embroidery show at 8 p.m. at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings, posters, Palestinian costumes, books and other items on the Holy City of Jerusalem at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ Exhibition of books on various subjects at Al Hashimieh Plaza, downtown Amman.

### DRAMA

- ★ Drama entitled "Samira and the Princess" at 6 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artists Nashaat and Shawket Al Alousi at Alia Art Gallery; includes 30 paintings depicting popular life and national scenery in Iraq, as well as Arabic calligraphy.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshbela Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre. The paintings depict Jordanian-Palestinian heritage, Jordanian antiquities, Arab Jerusalem, rural life and natural scenery.
- ★ Exhibition of a new collection of art works by Princess Wijdan

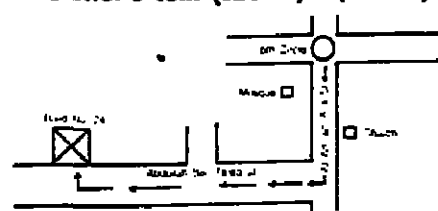


A street vendor shelters himself from the scorching sun in downtown Amman (Staff photo by Hynesley Floyd)

**In Sweifeyh**  
**Furnished Apartment For Rent**  
Three bedroom apartment available with three baths, living & dining rooms. Separate central heating, office, complete kitchen and new furniture.  
Location: Sweifeyh, Ahmad Al Sukhni St.  
For more information, call 693917 between 8-12 a.m.

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First floor house, furnished, suitable for an embassy or family. Located in Jabal Amman, Fourth Circle, the embassies district, near the Kuwaiti embassy. Consists of 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, one maid room, study, main hall open to a dining hall, with access to a spacious veranda. Overlooking a garden, with a sitting hall with access to a veranda overlooking a garden; kitchen with access to a veranda overlooking a garden, separate garage, separate entrance, big garden.  
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Address: As shown below.  
Owner's tel.: (822771) - (818582)





## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Director General: MOHAMMAD AMAD  
Editor-in-Chief: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4  
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO  
Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## Noxious fumes, impassible authorities

TUCH TALK, many articles and a series of television programmes have been devoted to environmental concerns in the country, but very little action has been taken to solve what could be a big problem nearing crisis. Take the latest revelation that pollution of our atmosphere, produced as a result of illicit car emissions, has reached dangerous proportions. There are more than 400,000 vehicles in the country, 80 per cent of which are polluting the air that we breathe in the capital alone. Everybody seems to pass the buck when it comes to addressing the problem, mainly by refusing to accept responsibility for it. The petroleum refinery authorities obviously feel blameless and not responsible for the black smoke that spews from automobiles for the poisonous gases that are emitted from the combustion engines of cars. The refinery either puts the blame on lack of maintenance or car engines or on regularities practised by gasoline station managers in order to make a fast buck. While these defensive admissions are valid to a certain extent, they fail to explain the entire crisis. The heavy contents of sulphur and lead in Jordanian gasoline is the sole responsibility of the refinery. Jordanian drivers have no choice here to fill up their tanks.

At a time when other nations, even less affluent than ourselves have already outlawed the use of leaded gasoline, Jordan has yet to recognise the problem associated with sulphur and lead, as if the lives of Jordanians are less relevant than material profits. In order and more sophisticated economic terms, the cost of continued use of health damaging fuels obviously exceeds any immediate gains that could be realised by use of adulterated fuel energy sources. This is not to absolve other authorities or quarters in the country on responsibility. The police is simply not doing anything about the problem. Name us one occasion when traffic police stopped a car because it was heavily polluting the air.

The concerned government departments also appear to be derelict when it comes to their duties. We should hold them accountable for not carrying out random checks on gasoline depots or not engaging the refinery company in serious dialogue about improving the quality of Jordanian fuel. Still, all Jordanians assume so responsibility for destroying the ecology of their country and the health of our citizens by not heeding the basic knowledge and warnings about pollution. The government should take this crisis seriously. It should start by creating a multi-dimensional ad hoc committee at the highest level possible, with a view to submitting the right proposals for stopping the slide. Once we know what should be done, action should follow on all fronts.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SEEMS that Israel has not yet learnt the lessons of the past and still intent on launching aggression on Lebanon, not heeding the retaliatory attacks launched on its forces by the resistance groups. Al Dustour Arabic daily. The paper said that if Israel continues to behave in the same manner, it would risk losing more of its troops and if it does not stop launching acts of aggression on the Lebanese territory, it risks causing further tension in the volatile region, endangering the peace talks, said the paper. Statements coming from the Israeli leaders nowadays indicate that the Israeli military is now preparing yet another large scale military campaign against the resistance forces in southern Lebanon and if another attack comes, there can be no doubt out its negative effects on the peace process, said the daily. The paper realises that its continued aggression on Lebanon can by no means stem the resistance activity; therefore, its continued onslaught on this Arab country can solve nothing, noted the daily. It said that with the fall of nine soldiers in one single resistance operation directed at the Israeli military, the Israeli leaders and the commanders of the Israeli forces have been thrown into confusion. Further embarrassment is expected, should the Israelis issue their acts of aggression, warned the daily. It called on the Arab countries keen on preserving peace to try to bridge Israel's ambitions so that the peace process can proceed unhindered and sure peace in the region.

THE AL SHAAB daily drew attention to the fact that the U.S.-led Western campaign against the Muslims is continuing unabated, and echoed His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's call on the Arabs and Muslims to join forces and work together to confront the common challenges. Unless this nation looks after its own affairs, other nations of the world will be shaping its destiny, against its own interests, warned the paper. Prince Hassan has called on Muslims and Arabs to unify their ranks in the face of the specter of a campaign directed against their faith, said the paper. He urged the Arabs and Muslims to contribute to the creation of a so-called new world order and not to leave their national interests to other nations to tamper with, added the daily. The story and the cultural heritage of the Arab and Islamic nations are rich and should be invoked to benefit the Arabs and Muslims in confronting the common challenges of the day, the paper added. The paper echoed the Prince's call for mobilising scientific, cultural and other potentials at the disposal of the Arabs and Muslims for the sake of protecting the interests of the coming generations.

## Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

## The twain shall never meet

Israel is on record as against yielding East Jerusalem. It has become an article of faith for all Israeli governments, be they headed by the Labour or by the Likud parties, that Jerusalem is indivisible for all times, come what may. The Arab side has taken this solemn proclamation rather too seriously, judging by the panic that such a declared Israeli stance causes among the Arab ranks, especially, of course, the Palestinians who stand to gain or lose most on the issue of the Holy City.

I personally have a hunch that Israel is still prepared to make concessions on East Jerusalem. This subjective intuition is reinforced every time I have an occasion to visit East Jerusalem and notice the dire neglect it suffers under the same Israeli municipality that governs West Jerusalem. East and West Jerusalem are still two different worlds in every sense of the word. For all intents and purposes, the twain shall never meet. There is no way that the cultural and religious gaps, not to mention other differences that separate Jews and Arabs in the city, can be bridged, as far as one can see. East Jerusalem is clearly a Middle Eastern town and West Jerusalem is obviously a western metropolis.

What is even more striking about the pious pronouncements that Jerusalem is united for good is the lack of evidence that the Israeli authorities are interested in the least to elevate conditions in Arab Jerusalem to anything that is compatible with Jewish Jerusalem. Take for example the simplest examples, the streets and types of construction, when allowed, that exist in the eastern part of Jerusalem.

Recently I went to visit Bab Al Zahra cemetery which is almost in the heart of Jerusalem. The condition of the cemetery was disgraceful to any authority that pretends to exercise jurisdiction over it. Money could not be the reason that sank this famous cemetery to the level it is in now. Cleaning the filth and dirt from it would not have cost more than a few hundred dollars. The Israeli municipality obviously does not give a hoot about the Islamic burial place and the Islamic Waqf people care even less. If the way such an East Jerusalem place is maintained is an example of the Waqf diligence or a reflection of the Israeli purported total jurisdiction over Jerusalem, then East Jerusalem, its shrines and public places stand to suffer even more in the future. The streets of East Jerusalem, especially those that connect with the

Jerusalem - Jericho road, are so neglected in contrast with the ones in West Jerusalem, that it is obvious that there is a determined Israeli policy to distinguish the eastern section of the city from the western one. And whereas West Jerusalem is generally clean and orderly, the same cannot be said about the Arab side.

I have personally concluded, therefore, that Israel has no intention to remain permanently in Arab Jerusalem. The blatant neglect of every facet of life on the Arab side, coupled with the lack of a policy to integrate the two parts, has convinced me that there is a silent policy reflecting the deep Israeli thinking that in the final analysis they would have to give up East Jerusalem even though its environs, for strategic reasons, will obviously continue to be held by Israel.

If one uses this criterion for judging Israeli intentions, as far as other occupied territories, it becomes easy to determine which part Israel will be prepared to withdraw from, within the framework of a peace treaty, and which part it is not going to relinquish. Areas, towns and cities left to their miseries and underdevelopment will be returned. Areas, towns and cities that have been accorded a privileged treatment will not be easy to return. East Jerusalem belongs to the former category. So its return to an Arab jurisdiction is a prognosis that I personally believe in. Future events will, hopefully, prove me right.

Drawing further on this analogy, Jericho and Gaza Strip are prime examples of purposeful Israeli neglect as a prelude to their return to Arab sovereignty. No wonder, then, that the Rabin government is more than accommodating to the idea of a precipitous Israeli withdrawal from such territories even before there exists a binding peace treaty between the parties. The same can be said about such cities and towns as Nablus, Jenin, Ramallah, Bethlehem and Hebron. Yet the environs of these Palestinian areas are thoroughly and systematically settled with an Israeli presence and they are not likely to withdraw from them. The new network of highways that links Israel proper with these environs, as distinguished from the conceded Arab cities and towns, reinforces the proposition that Israeli forces are not prepared to vacate these de facto annexed territories.

This is how I see the map of the future unless a miracle or two occurs.

## Recession, Balkan war cast pall over Europe

By Arthur Allen  
The Associated Press

BONN, Germany — Peace, freedom and prosperity, the bywords of European union, ring less clearly now. The banner of gold stars on a blue field, heralding tolerance and wealth, is ragged at the edges.

There is war in the Balkans and recession at home. Governments throughout western Europe greet refugees with "no vacancy" signs.

Plans for a single currency and a common foreign policy are in limbo. European leaders could not stop the dismemberment of Bosnia or keep speculators from derailing plans for a joint currency-exchange system.

Twenty-two million Europeans are out of work. Economists describe the unemployment as "structural," meaning they don't know what to do about it.

In the search for scapegoats, foreigners are increasingly under attack in Greece, Germany and Britain. Crime is on the rise nearly everywhere.

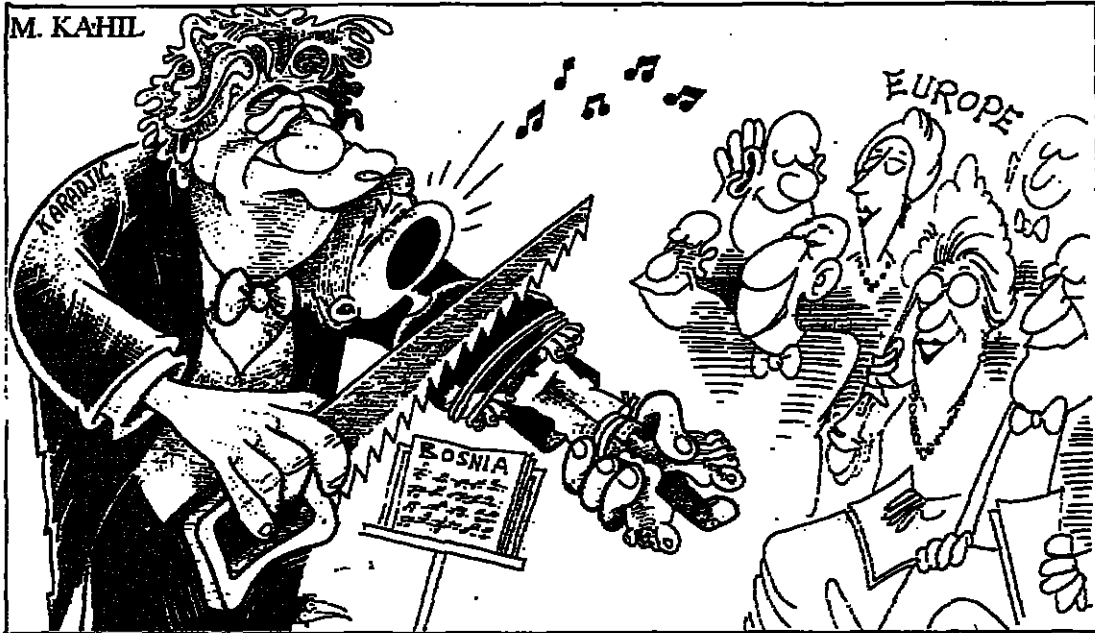
Hans Magnus Enzenberger, the German essayist, sees Bosnia as only the largest of many civil wars being fought by empty-headed bandits in Europe. He points to Solingen, where five Turks were burned to death May 29 by young fanatics.

"We're fooling ourselves if we think we have peace just because we can cling to our scrap of bread without getting shot down by a sniper," Mr. Enzenberger wrote in Der Spiegel magazine in June. "Civil war doesn't come from outside, like a virus. It's an endogenous process. It's only that our civil war haven't reached critical mass."

The last time that happened in Europe was after World War I, and the continent soon found itself at total war again. Need the process repeat itself?

"Democracy is much stronger than it was in the 1920s," said Dominique Moisi, deputy director of the French Institute of International Relations. "But nothing is irreversible."

In Germany, the only Euro-



pean land that was divided between West and East, integrating the two has thrown the entire continent into turmoil. The \$90 billion Germany spends each year to subsidize the integration has kept interest rates high everywhere else, frustrating economic recovery. Endless meetings in Brussels have produced no solution.

"There is a loss of faith in Europe," Mr. Moisi said. "People don't believe in these ideals any more. The feeling is that each country is giving priority to its own needs."

One need feel by most Europeans is to secure their borders against immigrants. Over 1 million foreigners have entered western Europe the past two years. Germany, which spent \$3.6 billion last year caring for 438,000 asylum applicants, slammed the door with a law passed May 28. France followed in July, and Interior Minister Charles Pasqua announced a goal of "zero immigration."

Despite the new German laws, more people keep trying to get in. About 45,000 illegal immigrants were apprehended in 1992, but 43,000 were detained in just the first half of this year. For every one caught, police estimate five

are missed. Labour Ministry officials found illegal Romanian construction workers who were being locked up on the site every night, indicating some employers exploit the illegals.

Concern about illegal aliens can lead to violence. About 500 crimes against foreigners were reported in Germany in 1991, more than 2,000 last year, and figures for 1993 are running higher. Race-related crimes also have increased in Britain.

Most violence against foreigners is committed spontaneously by embittered youths rather than by organized neo-Nazi groups.

"In earlier times, young workers grew up with the utopian belief that their monotonous and hard work would bring them up the social ladder," said a study published by Trier University sociologists. "Today, the machine's apprentice knows he'll never be bank director."

Prospects are particularly grim in Eastern Germany, where fewer than one-tenth of the 4 million workers remain on the job at crumbling plants put in trust by the government after unification in 1990.

Europe is in transition, and during transitions "people flee to the smallest unit," said playwright Heiner Mueller, whose apocalyptic staging of "Tristan and Isolde" is the highlight of the Wagner Festival in Bayreuth.

"Sometimes they flee to nations, sometimes to gangs," he said in an interview with the newspaper Frankfurter Rundschau. "Yugoslavia is a trial run for a European-wide process. Italy could be the next catastrophe, then France, then Germany."

With the cold war enemy gone, Mr. Mueller said, "we don't have any one left to whom we can delegate our hatred."

Intellectuals have expressed worry that the ideas of extreme nationalists and ethnic purists are increasingly acceptable. In a July 13 manifesto in Le Monde, 40 authors decried what they called the willingness of respectable journals to publish diatribes against Islam or arguments that the Holocaust was a hoax. Among the signers were Umberto Eco, author of "The Name of the Rose."

Mr. Moisi concluded: "Right now, we are overwhelmed by pessimism. Nothing is more ready."

## Lagos journalists to strike to protest government efforts to suppress them

By Michelle Faul  
The Associated Press

LAGOS, Nigeria — The boy darted among the cars gridlocked on a highway, peddling photocopies of a banned magazine with a bold headline: "Babangida entrenches his dictatorship."

Both buyers and seller were risking arrest, but business was booming. This nation is as hungry for information as Gen. Ibrahim Babangida is intent on suppressing it.

Ever since he derailed Nigeria's move towards democracy, the ruler has turned up the heat on a historically rambunctious industry that has tweaked and needed rulers since the 1850s, when the first Nigerian colonisers arrived.

With Gen. Babangida now jailing journalists, closing papers and issuing restrictive new laws with abandon, one of Africa's oldest news industries is struggling for survival.

On Thursday, journalists in the capital called a one-day strike for Tuesday to protest government efforts to suppress the media. More than 1,000 reporters and editors in the Lagos chapter of the Nigerian Union of Journalists said they would take part.

Some papers have been forced into self-censorship. Others have been forced underground, where respected newsmen have become guerrilla journalists, cranking out copy a step ahead of the law.

"Operating like fugitives on the run is an extremely challenging task," Nosa Igboye, editor of the banned Tell Magazine, wrote in a column Monday explaining why the weekly was raising its price.

Gen. Babangida never hesitated to close newspapers or jail journalists during his eight years in power. But his decision to void the June 12 presidential election that was to return the nation to democracy has led to full-scale war on the media.

The crackdown culminated on July 22 with the closing of 16 publications, including the Concord chain owned by Tycoon Moshood K.O. Abiola, the apparent winner of the nullified June ballot.

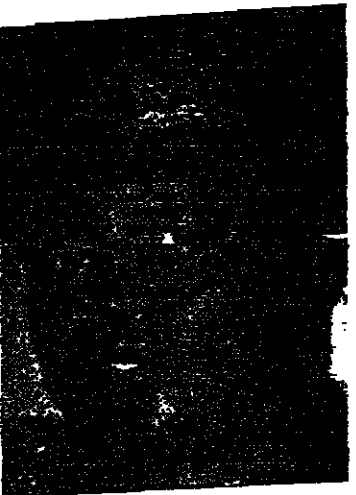
Security guards arrested dozens of people, carted off equipment and files and posted guards at the doors. Hundreds of thousands of newspapers and magazines have been confiscated.

Newspaper vendors also have been raided, and two were charged in court last week for selling another banned magazine, Tempo.

On Monday, Gen. Babangida tightened the screws with a decree ordering publications to pay licensing fees of \$16,000. He also ordered 10-year jail sentences for reporters found guilty of publishing "false reports."

But he has not been able to squelch demand. "You get Tell and it's sold out the same day. You sell them just as fast as you can hand out change," said one seller, who identified himself only as Akpan.

Banned publications have taken on a certain cachet. Tell has a cover price of the equivalent of \$1.13 but frequently sells for more. By the time vendors run out, demand has peaked to the point that photocopies go for



Ibrahim Babangida

twice the cover price. Those prices are steep for a nation in which the average monthly salary is the equivalent of \$27 a month.

At Ogbia-Ijaiye bus terminal, Akpan was even charging 13 cents for a 15-minute perusal of the Lagos Guardian.

Ralph Akinfeleye, professor of mass communications at the University of Lagos, told a meeting of the 8,000-member Nigerian union of journalists last week that they have to fight for democracy if they want their industry to survive.

Gen. Babangida was once heralded as a saviour of the press when he ousted the previous military ruler in 1985. Now, with his jailing journalists, closing papers and using restrictive new laws with abandon, some papers have been forced into self-censorship. Others have been forced underground.

The news industry is by no means totally pure. It is common for journalists, like many other people, to take bribes. When Mr. Abiola gave a news conference after the elections, Nigerian journalists were given \$18.

Ironically, Gen. Babangida was once heralded as a saviour of the press when he ousted the previous military ruler in 1985.

The general quickly repealed a decree that made it a crime to "embarrass" a public official in print and freed several jailed journalists.

Nigerian journalists say the honeymoon ended on Oct. 19, 1986, the day Dele Giwa, editor of the crusading magazine Newswatch, was killed by a bomb.

The Constitutional Rights Project, a human rights group, says military intelligence chief Col. Hafilu Akilu had called Giwa's wife asking for directions to the editor's home.

The next day, Giwa's son took delivery of a parcel marked "from the office of the C-in-C," shorthand for commander in chief, Babangida.

Giwa opened the parcel while he ate breakfast and said, "this must be from the president." They were his last words.

## LETTERS

### Hope for better representation

To the Editor:

The article by Mariam Shahin "16 political parties oppose one-person, one-vote on its own" (Jordan Times, Aug. 17, 1992) included our party, the Unionist Arab Democratic (UAD), amongst the parties rejecting the amendment to the Election Law.

Therefore, we would like to correct your information which was not obtained or declared by our party. We in the UAD Party, have not yet taken a final stand on all controversial issues related to suggested amendments to the Election Law. But we do tend to favour and agree with the one-man, one-vote formula, even if it came on its own, as a step forward, hoping it will eventually be followed by two integral elements, namely the introduction of smaller districts equal to the number of MPs and a runoff that, we believe, would ensure a better representation of the electorate.

Mahmoud Abdallah,  
Spokesman,  
Unionist Arab Democratic Party,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.





## Bottle caps spawn nightmare for Pepsi-Cola

By Ruben Alabastro  
Reuters

MANILA — A soft drink sales campaign supposed to turn a few Filipino pesos into millions has turned into a nightmare that won't go away for U.S. Pepsi-Cola.

Eighteen months after launching a promotional numbers game, Pepsi has spent about 300 million pesos (\$11 million) to rid off thousands of claims from "winning" consumers and repair shattered image in this impoverished Southeast Asian nation.

The promotion offered up to 5 million pesos (\$37,000) in free cash prizes to holders of the top numbers marked with three-digit winning numbers. Pepsi's nightmare began on May 25 last when it announced a million-dollar prize for any one holding a bearing the number 349.

The company realised the intensity of its mistake when thousands of jubilant people started claiming they had won. A million people eventually joined their prize. But Pepsi used to pay, saying the wrong number had been announced because of a computer error.

Trinidad Castro, a 56-year-old

food vendor, was watching television in a neighbour's house when the number was announced.

For nearly two decades, she had lived in a wooden push cart which her out-of-work husband turned into a shack by slapping a tin roof over it and parking it in a muddy Manila sidewalk.

Mrs. Castro ducked back into her push cart and brought out a sackful of Pepsi crowns, peering into the number on each cap.

Number 349 gleamed like diamonds on two of the more than 500 crowns she had collected.

Mrs. Castro was suddenly looking at two million pesos and a new life — or so she thought.

"I kept jumping and jumping until my blood pressure rose. At last, we could have a house of our own and I could buy my husband a jeepney (passenger mini-bus) he had always wanted," she recalled.

Similar scenes of jubilation were taking place that evening in thousands of homes around the country.

"I drank six bottles of Pepsi every day. That's how I got fat like this," said Encar San Miguel, 31, who also had two one-million-peso crowns in her possession.

The first thing Mrs. San Miguel thought of was building a small

funeral parlour. Her husband would make a good business out of it, he was a jobless embalmer.

Pepsi's refusal to pay up spawned fury throughout the country. In the months that followed, people rioted outside Pepsi plants, bombing and torching more than 30 Pepsi delivery trucks.

Homes of some Pepsi executives blossomed with armed guards and routes to work were frequently changed.

"For a time, we were eating death threats for breakfast," Pepsi Marketing Director Rosemarie Vera said.

In the worst incident, a grenade tossed at a Pepsi truck rolled down into a store and killed a woman and a child.

Some 349 cap holders filed more than 7,000 cases against Pepsi for fraud. State prosecutors have dismissed about 6,800 of them but hundreds more are still pending.

Pepsi's sales plummeted, and its share of the market fell from 26 per cent to 17.

To calm the storm, Pepsi offered to pay every 349 cap holder 500 pesos (\$18.50) each as a "gesture of goodwill." So far, it has redeemed 480,000 caps at a total cost of 240 million pesos

(\$8.5 million).

Ms. Vera said Pepsi's sales had recovered and its market share had returned to 21 per cent.

"We had to woo the consumers again and make them see we didn't intend to defraud anyone," she said. "We're still here and we're here to stay definitely."

Mrs. Castro's hopes for a house of her own and Mrs. San Miguel's dream of a funeral parlour for her husband have not dimmed.

Mrs. Castro's million-peso crowns are in a small tin can which she keeps beside her when she sleeps. The caps are wrapped in wads of cotton so that cockroaches and rats cannot scratch them.

"Our only hope is that God does not sleep," said Lucia Mendoza, 59, who keeps her 349 cap under lock and key. She said she had no intention of trading it for the 500-peso consolation prize Pepsi had offered.

"I'll keep the cap with me, maybe make a pendant out of it and hang it around my neck for as long as I live," Ms. Mendoza said.

"Later on I can say it's a remembrance of that day long ago when, for once, I thought I had become a millionaire."

## 500 days later, Sarajevans still cope under siege

By Mand Beelman  
The Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — It was just another day for Amira Knezevic.

She climbed 480 stairs, walked to the river to get water for her garden, picked some tomatoes, yanked a few weeds, carried 30 litres of water up 15 flights of stairs, and stoked her wood stove a second time. It wasn't even noon yet.

She barely had time to notice it was the 500th day of siege in Sarajevo.

The 48-year-old married woman is just one of nearly 400,000 remaining residents of the Bosnian capital, surrounded by Serb forces since April 6, 1992, who have fallen into a strange sort of routine of coping with the near-impossible. With shelling and shooting ebbing over the last two weeks, Sarajevo is less like a war zone than a ghetto.

The day begins for Mira, as she is known, around 7 a.m. when she makes her first foray from her high-rise apartment to the war garden on the other side of the Miljacka River.

Along the way, she passes a corner where a girl was killed by sniper fire a few days ago.

Is she scared?

Her reply is as matter-of-fact as the woman herself — a furrowed brow and a shake of the head.

Bosnia's Health Ministry says 9,284 people in Sarajevo have been killed or reported missing over the last 500 days. Another 54,398 people, about 10 per cent of Sarajevo's prewar population, have been wounded.

Mira's garden is like Sarajevo itself. Five small plots of ground, donated by friends with bigger gardens, are patchworked among those of Serb, Muslim and "mixed" neighbours who share horticultural tips.

Before the war, Mira worked in an office and lived an upper middle-class life. She never gardened, save for the flowers she

planted at her now-ransacked beach house in Neum, Bosnia's dot on the Adriatic Sea. Now, gardening is her mental and physical sustenance.

Twice a day she descends her apartment stairs, walks 10 minutes to the plots on the other side of the river, climbs over a barricade and crawls down to the Miljacka's edge to collect water in two plastic jugs. Then she gingerly walks the perimeter of others' gardens until she reaches her beets, carrots, corn, squash and cabbage.

"When I water the garden, I usually bring one cigarette," she said. "I smoke half of the cigarette in the first half of the garden, then I put it out and when I've finished the second half of the garden, I smoke the rest of the cigarette, and my outside work is done for that part of the day."

Once a week, Mira dons her red backpack and grabs a converted children's stroller for the 90-minute hike to Zuc, a hill north of town, to collect firewood. She hasn't gone this week

because several people have died in shelling on Zuc, scrounging for wood.

After the morning garden routine, Mira and her 25-year-old daughter, Dijana, wait for over an hour in the building's bank basement to collect water, which they then carry up 15 flights of stairs. That's on good days, when there's at least running water to building basements on the western edge of town. Otherwise, they walk to the nearest water collection point, more than a kilometre away.

Then it's on to lunch, the main meal. On the day AP talked to her, Mira whipped up an Italian fish stew, using one can of mackerel from aid rations, vegetables from her garden, herbs from friends, rice and macaroni. The only missing ingredient was the white wine, she said with a smile.

The only luxury Mira allows herself is occasional reflection on her summer home in Neum, where family and friends would sit on the balcony under a setting sun and eat prosciutto and drink wine.

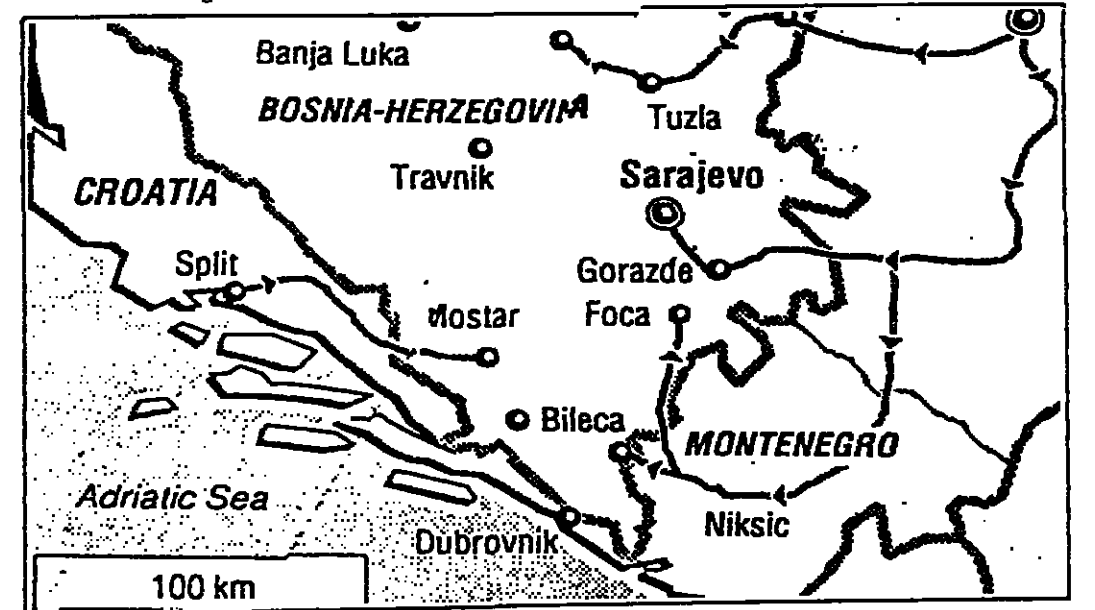
She even sees some good that's come out of the siege — her newfound love of gardening and losing 20 kilos. The new Mira, with chin-length bobbed hair, bright hazel eyes and tanned skin, looks nothing like the pictures of old Mira at the beach.

Mira, a Muslim, and her husband Bozo, a Serb, have plenty of pictures around the apartment of their 15-year-old son, Sasa, who was sent to live with relatives in Serbia at the start of the war. They have not talked to him since June, and they miss him terribly.

Before the day's out, Mira makes one more pilgrimage to her garden, knowing that having one makes her among Sarajevo's fortunate.

By day's end, she has made at least five trips up her stairs, 720 steps.

After 500 days, she's tired, but willing to give up. "I can't. I could only sit here and cry, and I'm not the crying type," she said. "Nights are the worst part of the day," she admits. Mira used to love to read in bed, but she can't afford the candles anymore.



## Polar bear casts doubt on Ice Age theories

By Doug Melgren  
The Associated Press

SLO, Norway — A polar bear dated about 60,000 years ago in an Arctic cave is challenging Ice Age theories about the Ice Age because it seems to have lived in the wrong place, at the wrong time.

Bones from the bear, discovered in Norway's Arctic, are

likely the oldest ever found, said zoologist Rolv Lie.

But scientists now wonder what the polar bear and other animals were doing in northern Norway when the area was supposed to be sealed under an icecap that would have made such life impossible.

"The most remarkable thing is that there were animals living there at all 60,000 years ago. That would mean that the area wasn't

under an icecap as we believed," Mr. Lie, of the University of Bergen, said by telephone this week.

Mr. Lie said geologists believe Norway was enshrouded in ice during the last glacial epoch, beginning about 80,000 years ago and ending about 10,000 years ago.

Findings like the polar bear bones, accidentally unearthed by two construction workers in 1991 at Tysfjord — about 200 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle — cast doubt on that view.

Dating techniques this spring confirmed that the bear's remains are at least 42,000 — and likely 60,000 — years old. In any case, the bear lived in northern Norway in the depth of the ice age, and is older than any polar bear Mr. Lie said he could find reported in world scientific literature.

He and other scientists probing the chalk-filled Tysfjord grotto and nearby sites have found a bounty of clues about the Ice Age, including the bones of two other polar bears that were about 20,000 years old, a 32,000-year-old wolf jaw as well as seals, mice, ants and pollen.

"We have a lot of work left," said Mr. Lie. "But the abundance of animal and plant life suggests that north Norway was relatively warm for most or all of the Ice Age. It could not have been continuously covered with ice as was believed," he said.

He said Ice Age polar bears, Arctic fox and seals found in the region could have thrived in a very cold climate, although not in a wasteland of snow and ice.

The remains of the wolf, field mice, ants and tree pollen suggest an even warmer climate since those species could not have withstood the prolonged and extreme cold of an Ice Age.

"The wolf needs large prey like

reindeer," said Mr. Lie. Reindeer, in turn, must be able to graze on bare ground. "The summers must have been relatively warm and the winters not excessively cold, maybe like the northern coast of Greenland today," said Mr. Lie.

A team led by Mr. Lie and geologist Stein-Erik Lauritzen is excavating the sites, partly to see if humans also lived in the area earlier than believed. Scientists now believe the first humans settled in Norway about 12,000 years ago as the ice receded.

"I'll start my diet tomorrow"

"I will start again tomorrow"

"I promise to diet tomorrow"

"No cheating... starting tomorrow"

"If tomorrow never comes, call weight management at"

BODY DESIGN 829669

Don't wait until tomorrow

Body Design Abdoun

Ladies Gym Tel.: 829669



The furry, white bear, so familiar a sight at the North Pole, is now the source of bewilderment to researchers, challenging long-established geological theories (File photo)

### RIZLA+ Team



In response to an invitation by His Majesty King Hussein, Rizlat Team took part in the Tal Al Rumman Rally. It was a symbolic participation to encourage organising rallies in Jordan. The team participated with a Ford-Escort 4x4, 300 horsepower, winning the third place in the race.

Abu Azzam and Sons Company the Jordanian Smoker Store — agents of Rizlat. Company in Jordan Congratulates the team on its winning the third place in the race.

Drink

# Coca-Cola

TRADE MARK

250ml

## Always Coca Cola! Always the Real Thing!

YES IT'S HERE!!! It's the great taste that everyone has been waiting for, that totally refreshing experience. It's the cool taste of the number one selling soft drink in the world - it's great tasting Coca Cola, and now it's in Jordan!







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## Buthlezi hardens threat to boycott elections

DURBAN (AFP) — Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi has hardened his threat to boycott South Africa's first non-racial election on April 27, the Sunday Times reported.

"There is no way that ... as president of Inkatha, I am prepared to fight elections over who is going to write the constitution," he told journalists at a game reserve in Natal province Saturday.

"I am just not prepared to do that because it is a disaster for our country."

His bitter rival the African National Congress (ANC) and the government are pressing ahead with plans to have the elected Constituent Assembly draft a final constitution.

A final decision on whether to take part in the election would be taken at a conference later this year, Mr. Buthelezi said.

Mr. Buthelezi, fearing the IFP will be swamped by the majority ANC in the Constituent Assembly, demands that a final constitution with extended federalism to secure his KwaZulu homeland and surrounding Natal be drawn up before elections.

His threat follows a warning last week in Pretoria that the IFP would refuse to contest elections if their demands are not met.

His increasingly aggressive stance, together with regular predictions of civil war if the election goes ahead on April 27, is placing severe strains on his party's relations with Pretoria, the ANC and most of the 24 remaining parties at democracy talks.

The IFP and its rightwing Conservative Party ally abandoned talks on July 2, when democracy negotiators swept aside their protests and confirmed the April 27 election date.

Mr. Buthelezi also demanded a referendum on whether or not South Africa should have a federal system.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus told the Sunday Times it was a great pity that Mr. Buthelezi had threatened to boycott elections.

"We will do everything in our means to get the IFP to change its position," he said.

Top government negotiator Roelf Meyer said Saturday the IFP had set unattainable goals which could not be reached without a compromise.

"If Inkatha refuses to make concessions, it will be difficult to bring it back into the fold," he said.

The IFP has dismissed out of hand two draft interim constitutions drawn up by democracy negotiators, which do not guarantee the federalism it demands.

President F.W. de Klerk last week lambasted the IFP for walking out of talks and of accusing the government with the ANC of conniving in democracy talks.

"Inasmuch as the democratic process makes opponents of us, the IFP needs to know that it will have to deal with a formidable adversary," he warned.

Mr. de Klerk left Sunday for a week-long tour of four South American countries aimed at boosting trade and business links, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Mr. de Klerk, accompanied by a delegation of businessmen, is scheduled to visit Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay and Chile.

Meanwhile, a lone gunman with an AK-47 assault rifle sprayed workers attending a religious meeting here Sunday, killing at least 10 people and wounding 21, police said.

Police spokesman Captain Wikus Weber revised downwards an earlier toll of 17 dead in the carnage on the sprawling grounds of the Scaw Metal Works in Germiston, east of Johannesburg.

The dead were nine men and one woman, he said.

A resident of the migrant labour hostel on the factory premises said the shooting started at 11:00 a.m. (0900 GMT) at a liquor store on the grounds and that four gunmen were involved, but this was not confirmed by police.

The dweller, who did not want to be identified, said the shooting appeared "unprovoked," with the gunmen later running out of the shop and spraying people gathered for a regular weekly meeting of the hostel's funeral committee.

According to the account provided by Capt. Weber, a security guard heard gunfire and saw a man armed with an AK-47 chasing another man through the hostel.

The gunman then went outside and opened up on the meeting taking place on a lawn in front of the hostel.

Nine bodies were found outside and one inside the hostel, Capt. Weber said.

## U.N. warns of starvation in devastated Mostar

SARAJEVO (R) — Muslims trapped in the besieged Bosnian city of Mostar could begin dying of starvation in five days unless relief supplies arrived quickly, U.N. officials said Sunday.

Heavy fighting raged between Bosnian Croats and Muslims Sunday in the southern city and Croat forces shelled the Muslim-held quarter. Reuters correspondent Kurt Shork described the Muslim old town as a bomb-blasted wasteland.

"The food situation (in Mostar) is desperate," Lyndall Sachs, spokeswoman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told a news conference in Sarajevo.

She gave details of a report by UNHCR official Jerrie Hulme about his visit Saturday to the Muslim sector where 55,000 people, including 30,000 refugees, were trapped.

"My colleague reported that local authorities were saying that if no food convoys arrived in the next five days, we are going to see deaths by starvation."

"He said the population looked extremely thin and they actually looked starved. He does not believe this statement by the local authorities to be an exaggeration in any way," Ms. Sachs said.

Ms. Sachs said U.N. officials were trying to persuade Bosnian Croat forces, who are fighting the Muslim-led Bosnian government forces in the area, to let more convoys through. The Bosnian Croat Defence Council (HVO) controls access routes to the southwestern city.

The U.N. was also exploring the possibility of trying to get convoys in through Serb lines in the city early next week.

"We've got this five-day clock ticking and we are very, very anxious to get this convoy through," Ms. Sachs said.

She called Mr. Hulme's report of life in Mostar's Muslim quarter "quite shocking."

"He reported that there were people doing the 'Sarajevo jog' — that is they were running to avoid the sniper bullets which were coming in thick and fast."

In Mostar, correspondent Shork reported that a concrete cellar serving as makeshift ward for 20 wounded patients suffered a direct hit from a mortar round on Sunday morning, but all the patients escaped without serious injury.

Fighting between Croats and Muslims erupted in Mostar in May when the two sides' alliance collapsed in a scramble to grab territory ahead of any peace settlement.

Ms. Sachs said there was no electricity or water in the Muslim sector. The only water source was the Neretva River. "Whenever people try to get water, they get sniped at," she said.

U.N. relief workers reached the Muslim-held quarter of Mostar Saturday for the first time since the beginning of June, delivering a small amount of medical supplies there.

The U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) civil affairs director, Cedric Thornberry, embarked on new negotiations Sunday to try to obtain permanent access for emergency aid to the sector.

He said Saturday's delivery of the medical supplies to a Muslim hospital was a "symbolic" gesture, intended to open the way for larger, regular aid convoys.

Mr. Thornberry said the Muslim hospital, housed in a laboratory built at the beginning of this century, has about 50 beds jammed into its hallways and entrance.

Four doctors from Sarajevo had arrived in the Muslim enclave Friday night, completing their journey with a 15-hour trek across the hills.

Around Sarajevo, tensions have apparently increased on Mount Igman overlooking the Bosnian capital. UNPROFOR spokeswoman Lieutenant-Colonel Tricia Purves said the Serb and Muslim armies had accused each other of failing to honour the agreement to pull forces back off Mount Igman by Aug. 14.

At a meeting with UNPROFOR in Sarajevo Saturday, both sides made direct threats if the agreement was not obeyed, Col. Purves said. They said if the other side violated the withdrawal agreement "they would batter them," she added.

In central Bosnia, the Bosnian government army appeared to be moving reinforcements from the 7th Brigade into positions around Fojnica and to the area around Gornji Vakuf. Both of these towns were the scene of intense combat in recent weeks.

Col. Purves said the reinforcements might only be a routine rotation of troops, but she added: "It's always worrying when one side starts moving troops."

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic has received a letter from the United States promising help in implementing the proposed peace plan that aims to end Bosnia's civil war, Sarajevo Radio reported Sunday.

The radio said the letter from Secretary of State Warren Christopher encouraged a negotiated solution to the three-sided civil war and promised American assistance in the post-war reconstruction of the republic.

The U.S. State Department has sent letters to all three of Bosnia's warring parties urging them to consider seriously the compromise agreement hammered out at peace talks in Geneva.

Serb artillery opened fire on the Maslenica Bridge Sunday shortly after the Croatian authorities had finished repairing it, diplomats and the U.N. Protection Force here said.

Two shells landed near the bridge but caused no damage, UNPROFOR said.

A Western diplomat told AFP that about 10 shells landed in the zone at about 12:20 p.m. (1020 GMT) and that two more landed less than half an hour later.

The Croatian authorities had only got the floating pontoon bridge back into service towards midday after repairs to damage caused at the beginning of the month by Serb fighters of the breakaway Krajina region of Croatia.

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A member of the armed group calling itself Group 40 for National Sovereignty (masked) points at Duilio Baltodano (left), the director of the United Nicaraguan Opposition (UNO) at a press conference announcing the release of 14 hostages (AFP photo).

## Pro-Sandinista hostage-takers free 14 in Nicaragua; standoff continues

MANAGUA (AFP) — Government negotiators convinced a pro-Sandinista group to free 14 hostages but at least 60 people remained captive Saturday in a double hostage crisis many Nicaraguans fear could trigger another civil war.

Formerly U.S.-backed contra rebels took 37 hostages Thursday in northern Nicaragua. In retaliation, a pro-Sandinista group attacked the contraist UNO coalition headquarters during a high level meeting and took 40 hostages, including Vice President Virgilio Godoy.

Sandinista former President Daniel Ortega, sent to the site of the Managua hostage-taking as part of a negotiating team, told reporters: Mr. Godoy was still a prisoner but that the group freed two lawmakers suffering from ill health, 11 staffers and the son of a legislator. The group of former Sandinista troops freed another ill assemblyman shortly after his raid on a party meeting.

An AFP journalist who briefly entered UNO headquarters where the pro-Sandinistas are holding the vice president and others saw a tired and tense Godoy, with former Assembly Speaker Alfredo Cesar, waiting out an end to the standoff, as the abductors' leader held a press conference next door.

"This is the most serious event Nicaragua has been hit with in years," Mr. Cesar said, before guards brandishing AK-47s

ordered an AFP reporter out of the room to the conference.

"We are here and we hope everything will turn out well," Mr. Godoy said.

The pro-Sandinista group leader, known by the nom-de-guerre Commander 31, complained that the hostage release was not met with one from the reformed contras.

"We freed people as a good will gesture, and what has (contra rebel leader) the Jackal done?" Commander 31 asked reporters. "He has not let anyone go."

Jose Angel Talavera, the leader of the Recontras, as the group is called, said Friday he would agree to no such exchanges.

The former contra rebels took hostage 37 members of a government delegation Thursday to demand that President Violeta Chamorro dismiss army chief Humberto Ortega, a Sandinista and the brother of the former Sandinista president, and Antonio Lacayo, Chamorro's controversial top aide and son-in-law.

The delegation had travelled to Quilali, 300 kilometres (200 miles) north of the capital, for peace talks with the reformed contras, who ended a civil war against the leftist former Sandinista government three years ago.

Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta said two high-level commissions negotiating an end to the hostage crisis have free rein to reach agreements on legal and economic issues but cannot discuss political issues.

In an unusual move, Nicaragua's splintered political elite closed ranks with the president Saturday.

The two leading political forces in the country, UNO — the coalition that backed Mrs. Chamorro's presidential bid only to break with her over policy choices — and the Sandinista National Liberation Front party, issued a rare joint communique asking that the hostages held by both groups be "unconditionally and immediately freed."

In Washington, the State Department urged the hostage-takers to free their captives. "Such actions by extremists are extraordinarily destructive to the development of the rule of law and consolidation of democratic institutions," it said in a statement.

Journalists taken hostage

In a later development, the gunmen holding hostage Nicaragua's vice-president and a score of other political leaders Sunday seized a group of journalists covering the stand-off, local radio reports said.

Radio Ya said its reporter, who had been allowed to transmit from inside the building where the hostages are being held, had been taken prisoner by the gunmen along with at least seven other Nicaraguan journalists.

"They are no longer there as journalists, they are there as hostages," the radio said.

## Japan recognises World War II mistakes; refuses to pay compensation

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa is expected to express anew the national responsibility for World War II suffering in a speech to parliament Monday but his government has clearly said it will not be paying any compensation.

Two weeks ago, Mr. Hosokawa became the first Japanese head of government to describe the country's World War II posture as a "war of aggression" waged against Asian neighbours in the 1930s and 1940s.

Some Japanese press reports speculate that Mr. Hosokawa may even go a bit further Monday by offering formal "apologies" to the Asian countries.

Mr. Hosokawa, who came to power two weeks ago as the head of Japan's first coalition government in 45 years, is to address both houses of the diet, or parliament, Monday.

Asian countries which suffered during Japan's expansionist drive before and during World War II, mainly China and South Korea, have welcomed Japan's recent frankness.

However, Mr. Hosokawa's new, open attitude has also revived demands for financial compensation by thousands of war

victims still living in Asia and elsewhere in the world.

It is virtually certain Mr. Hosokawa will not be offering compensation. Foreign Affairs Minister Tsutomu Hata said Friday the question of war reparations was closed.

The night before, Government Secretary-General Masayoshi Takemura firmly denied reports by two mass-circulation newspapers that Tokyo would create a special compensation fund of up to two trillion yen (\$19 billion).

Mr. Hata said the 100,000 to 200,000 "comfort women", forced into prostitution by the Japanese Imperial Army during the war, were an exception in terms of compensation, but he did not give details.

The Japanese government has never before taken such steps to atone for its degree of responsibility in the long taboo question of World War II, a somber period in the nation's history.

However, this frank new spirit is not without its opponents in Japan. Several opposition members have severely criticised the usage "war of aggression" and two ministers of the current cabinet have expressed reservations.

"It is a blasphemy against his-

tory to define Japan's war acts as aggression, with all the responsibility for the war falling on Japan," Shizuka Kamei, a member of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party, said.

Meanwhile, defence chief Keisuke Nakagishi said in an interview Sunday that Japan will maintain close ties with the United States and will not cut its military strength.

"It is short-circuit thinking to cut defence forces only because of the end of the cold war," Mr. Nakagishi, director general of the Defence Agency, said in the interview with the Asahi Shimbun newspaper.

The minister said the new administration would maintain the defence policies pursued by the previous government led by the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

"We must maintain close relations with the United States," said Mr. Nakagishi who was appointed defence chief under the seven-party coalition cabinet.

Mr. Nakagishi said at a news conference Friday that the defence agency would seek a budget to purchase two Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) planes from the United States.

## Taiwan ruling party ends key congress

TAIPEI (Agencies) — Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui closed a key congress of his strident Nationalist Party Sunday after averting a major split in its ranks but failing to quell growing dissent.

Mr. Lee, who survived a challenge from rebel delegates to win another four-year term as party chairman during the convention, appealed for party unity in the face of the most serious threats to the Nationalists' hold on power in four decades.

"I always believe that every difficulty can be overcome as long as we are sincere and determined," he told about 2,000 delegates on the last day of the gathering.

"I will honour my pledge to dedicate myself to the nation and

the party's cause to consolidate unity, integrate different opinions and rejuvenate the party apparatus to meet external challenges," Mr. Lee said.

The seven-day congress approved a series of reforms to make the party more democratic and win back flagging public support, which has dropped to its lowest levels since the Nationalists lost the Chinese civil war and fled to Taiwan in 1949.

Elections by secret ballot were introduced for key party posts, including the chairmanship, and the Nationalists adopted a new platform which pledges to stamp out corruption, one of the main reasons for their loss of support.

The party also replaced many old-guard conservatives with a new generation of younger, more

progressive politicians in its 210-member Central Committee.

But the congress failed to satisfy the rebel faction which has grown since Taiwan began democratic reforms by lifting martial law in 1987. The rebels accuse Mr. Lee, 70, of dragging his feet on reform and tolerating corruption.

"On the surface, there is unity within the party. But underneath the storm is continuing," Yen Hui-Chun, a spokeswoman for the rebels, told a news conference.

Mr. Yen said the divisions would hurt the Nationalists in local government elections in November, when the party is expected to face a stiff challenge from the main opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP).

## Michael Jackson stays out of public view

BANGKOK (AFP) — U.S. superstar Michael Jackson went Sunday into his first full day of a tour of Thailand and other Asian countries with his programme shrouded in secrecy. Lee Solters, who is in charge of public relations for the 34-year-old pop idol, said he had no programme of activities so far for Mr. Jackson, who will give two open air concerts in the Thai capital Tuesday and Wednesday amid massive security.

"He will be visiting interesting places here and doing some shopping, but we just don't know when," Mr. Solters said. Staff at the Oriental Hotel, one of the most famous in the world, where Jackson is staying remained mum. Jackson arrived late Saturday in Bangkok, on the first leg of an Asian tour which also includes Singapore and Taipei. As the hotel lobby was packed with uniformed and plain-clothed police preventing anyone but guests and staff from entering the lifts, Jackson slipped into the hotel by a backdoor to avoid a crowd of some 200 photographers and fans who had been waiting for his arrival. He later made a brief appearance on the terrace of his 13th floor suite and waved to a group who had gathered around the hotel's swimming pool below, chanting, "Michael, Michael." A force of some 2,000 soldiers and policemen is to be deployed to provide security for the concerts which will take place at the 40,000-seat National Stadium. Tickets for the shows have been snapped up and the stadium is expected to be jam-packed for the performances, which have been described as the biggest concerts ever organised in Thailand.

Brigitte Bardot turns her nose up at Saint-Tropez

PARIS (R) — Screen goddess Brigitte Bardot, who put Saint-Tropez on the celebrity map, now says her adopted French Riviera resort has lost all its charm. "The town is overrun by hoodlums, drug addicts, crooks of all kinds, bits of garbage," she said in one of a long string of put-downs published in France-Soir newspaper. "It's Miami." The fishing village nicknamed Saint-Tropez has been a summer playground for film and pop stars ever since Bardot, sex symbol turned animal rights crusader, settled there in 1958. Now she spends her summers near Paris, where she was born. "The little, gleaming port of the 1960s, when there were pretty girls, models, cover girls, is gone," Bardot, 58, said in the interview. "Today French fries and sausages are king." Saint-Tropez's population of about 5,000 swells in the summer when an estimated 100,000 tourists descend each day from the surrounding hills to crowd its medieval streets. "What's become of the little fishing port where I'd tie up my little boat to do my errands?" Bardot said as a young girl she'd go to night clubs in bare feet, her hair covered with sea salt. "Now you've got to go to the hairdresser's and put on an evening dress to go out at night in Saint-Tropez."

Surgeon removes live grenade from man's arm

BOGOTA (R) — A Colombian surgeon Saturday removed a live grenade from the arm of a man 14 hours after he was struck by the projectile in a crossfire between soldiers and guerrillas, the Colombia News Agency reported. Gilberto Avanza Garcia was driving in his truck when he was struck by the fragmentation grenade in a skirmish between army troops and Marxist rebels near the city of Bucaramanga, Coloprens said. Two hospitals turned him away before he was accepted at a third in Bucaramanga. "I wasn't scared," the agency quoted Mr. Avanza as saying. "I only felt a little stunned when they told me I had a grenade in my arm." Television images showed the man lying in a stretcher with the grenade lodged in his blackened and bloodied left arm.

The grenade, about 40 mm (1.5 inches) wide, usually explodes on impact. Coloprens said the delicate operation lasted about six hours. The surgeon was assisted by an explosives expert.

Japanese wartime plane found in Indonesia jungle

JAKARTA (R) — The wreckage of a wartime Japanese Mitsubishi fighter plane has been found in the Indonesian jungle complete with guns, ammunition and skeleton, Antara News Agency said Sunday. It said a scavenger found the plane, which carried the red sun insignia of Japan's Imperial Air Force, last week in the jungles of East Kalimantan on the island of Borneo. Officials trekked through the jungle to verify the discovery and recovered evidence for further study.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Russia, Lithuania break off talks

MOSCOW (R) — Russia said Sunday it had broken off talks on withdrawing its remaining troops from Lithuania and warned Vilnius it would act "swiftly and decisively" if they suffered any intimidation. A terse Russian Foreign Office statement marked the deepest crisis in relations between Russia and Lithuania since the end of Soviet rule in 1991. Its wording at points recalled the rancour of the darker days of Vilnius's independence struggle. Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas cancelled Moscow talks with Russian leader Boris Yeltsin, scheduled for Monday. The Russian Foreign Ministry statement said the pullout, scheduled under a bilateral deal to take place by Aug. 31, would still go ahead but "at a time convenient to the Russian Federation of which the Lithuanian side will be informed." Some 2,500 troops remain out of the 30,000 originally stationed in the Baltic state.

### Azerbaijan retakes Jebail

BAKU (AP) — Azerbaijan retook a southern city seized earlier in the week by Armenian forces but the Armenians continued to hold strategic heights overlooking Jebail, the Defence Ministry reported Saturday. The Armenian advance in recent days has sent about 60,000 people fleeing southern Azerbaijan regions east toward the border with Iran, the international Red Cross reported. On Saturday, the Armenians captured the Azerbaijani village of Azburn near the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry reported. There was no immediate word on any casualties. Armenian forces that had taken Jebail earlier in the week now have pulled back to the heights surrounding the city to the north, the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry said. A field commander for the Armenians said, however, that his forces never intended to hold Jebail because of its close proximity to Iran. "We don't want to create a political dispute between Nagorno-Karabakh and Iran," said Mikhail Pogosian, who led Nagorno-Karabakh troops near the



## Capriati ousts Sanchez-Vicario, Courier regains No. 1 ranking

TORONTO (AP) — Steffi Graf conducted a tennis clinic on Saturday in a 6-2, 6-1 semifinal defeat of Switzerland's Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere to advance to the finals of the Canadian Open tennis tournament.

Graf, seeded No. 1, will meet 17-year-old American Jennifer Capriati, a 7-6 (10-8), 6-2 semifinal winner over defending champion Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario.

The 24-year-old Graf was nearly perfect against her 26-year-old Swiss opponent, using an overpowering forehand and first serve to finish Maleeva-Fragniere in 56 minutes.

"I don't think I could have played much better," said Graf, who landed her first serve 72 per cent of the time compared with Maleeva-Fragniere's 26 per cent.

Graf, the top-ranked player in the world, has yet to lose a set this week. Saturday victory was her 17th in a row over Maleeva-Fragniere.

"I can't criticize anything in my game," she said. "It seemed she didn't really know what to do because there wasn't anything today that could hurt me."

"I felt really under pressure all the time," said Maleeva-Fragniere, seeded eighth. "I was trying to counter, I was trying to be aggressive, I was trying to hit even harder but she was coming up with even better shots."

The five-time Wimbledon champion won eight consecutive points the first two games. She also capitalized on the weak second serve of Maleeva-Fragniere throughout the match.

In the other semifinal at the National Tennis Centre at York University, Capriati, seeded sixth, and Sanchez-Vicario, seeded second, dizzied a near-capacity crowd of 10,000 with a brilliant display of tennis.

The tenacious Spaniard came back from a 3-1 deficit in the first set to force a tiebreaker with the well-rested American, who received a bye into the semifinals when Julie Halard of France defaulted her quarterfinal match Friday night because of back spasms.

Sanchez-Vicario was up 5-0 and then 6-3 in the tiebreaker.

but Capriati came back and won the set on a cross-court forehand. "You dig deep down and you just come through," she said. "I just had all this adrenaline going and I was going to run down everything and not give anything up."

Sanchez-Vicario said losing the first set was the difference. "If I would have won the first set everything would have changed. She started getting more confident."

The final is a rematch of the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, in which Capriati beat Graf 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 to win the gold medal. Graf is 8-1 against Capriati.

**Rest becomes a priority for demoted Sampras**

In Indianapolis, Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras was searching for answers Saturday, reluctantly taking an early vacation before he heads to the U.S. Open minus the ATP tour's No. 1 ranking.

Sampras will be ranked second behind American rival Jim Courier when the new rankings are released Monday, and the switch in positions will also be reflected when the draw for the U.S. Open is made Thursday.

Saturday's combination of Courier's quarterfinal victory over Cedric Pioline and the shocking 7-6 (8-6), 6-7 (3-7), 7-6 (7-5) upset of Sampras by 20-year-old Patrick Rafter of Australia produced the change.

Sampras was seeking his third consecutive U.S. hardcourt title, having brought a 20-2 tournament mark into the event.

But he saw some benefit to the loss. "I will have some time off now before the Open. It has been four straight weeks (of competition) for me, which I think is a bit too much. I don't think I'm going to do this schedule again," Sampras said.

Rest is his major priority. "Take a couple of days off, start working out again, work on a couple of things down in Florida," he said when asked what he'd be doing since he didn't have to play in Saturday semifinal.

Courier, seeded second behind Sampras here, expressed no glee over reclaiming the No. 1 ranking after his 6-3, 6-4 win over Pioline. "I am indifferent. I am glad to win this match," said Courier, who takes over the top spot for the fourth different time Monday. "That is the only thing that is important to me right now."

Earlier in the tournament, which he won in 1988, Courier said he was only concerned with year-end rankings. "I've said it all along. I will keep saying it, that the ranking counts at the end of the year. That is when it goes into the books," Courier said. "I enjoyed my time as No. 1. Hopefully, I will have more time up there. It is not something that I worry about. The importance for me certainly lies in the big tournaments, not the ranking."

**Medvedev advances to finals**

In New Haven, Connecticut — Andrei Medvedev used a powerful serve to overcome Andre Agassi's masterful return game, advancing to the Volvo International final with a 7-6 (7-3), 3-6, 6-4 victory Saturday.

Medvedev, 19 next week, will be seeking his sixth tournament title, but first on a surface other than clay, when he meets Petr Korda, Korda, who won the hardcourt tournament two years ago, advanced with a 6-3 6-1 victory over unseeded Byron Black.

Medvedev had 23 aces, 11 in the first set as Agassi managed just two points off Medvedev first serve in the set.

"I've never done anything like this before," Medvedev said of his masterful serving. "Not even in practice when there's no one on the other side of the court."

The match featured many long rallies between the two baseliners. Agassi frequently had the advantage, but it wasn't enough to overcome Medvedev's serve.

"I don't think there's anything he could have done. I was hitting the corners and all the places that make it tough to return," Medvedev said.

**Milan win Super Cup**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Marco Simone scored in the fourth minute to give AC Milan their second straight Super Cup victory, a 1-0 triumph over Torino Saturday.

The triumph was Milan's third in the six-year history of the Super Cup, between the Italian champions and the Cup Winners.

"This was an important victory," Milan coach Fabio Capello said. "This was our first afternoon game. We saw in the second half both teams were not as precise as they should have been."

A crowd of 25,268 watched at RFK Stadium, one of the venues for next year's World Cup.

The match was moved to the United States to help promote football in advance of the World Cup.

Milan, the two-time defending Italian champions, scored after Franco Baresi, sent a long kick into the penalty area.

**Kentucky Derby winner captures Travers**

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. (AP) — Sea Hero became the first Kentucky Derby winner since 1942 to also win the Travers Stakes Saturday, taking the lead with less than an eighth of a mile (200 metres) left and beating Kissin Kris by two lengths.

Returning to the form he displayed on the first Saturday in May, Sea Hero moved past Devoted Brass and Colonial Affair to be the first Derby-Travers winner since Shoutout won the 1 1/4 mile (2-kilometre) race at Saratoga in 1942.

"I couldn't be more delighted," said Paul Mellon, Sea Hero's 55-year-old owner who won his fourth Travers after having won his first Derby.

Sea Hero, who faltered badly in the Preakness Stakes and Belmont Stakes, the second and third legs of the U.S. Thoroughbred Triple Crown, and who finished fourth in the Jim Dandy Aug. 1 at Saratoga, was the eighth Derby winner to appear in the Travers since Shoutout's victory.

Jerry Bailey kept Sea Hero well off the lead going down the backstretch, then sparked kicked the colt entering the final turn.

Sea Hero began going around horses and swept into the stretch four wide. At the top of the stretch, Sea Hero brushed briefly with Miner's Mark, who had beaten him in the Jim Dandy, then sailed down the middle of the track for his victory in 2 minutes, 14.5 seconds. Kissin Kris finished a length ahead of Miner's Mark.

## World Athletics Championships

### U.S. relay team equals world record without Lewis

### Kiptanui wins steeplechase; Biryukova sets triple jump record

STUTTGART (AP) — The Americans apparently don't need Carl Lewis to set records in the 400-metre relay.

The U.S. team showed that emphatically Saturday, as Jon Drummond, Andre Cason, Dennis Mitchell and Leroy Burrell matched the world record of 37.40 seconds during a semifinal heat at the World Championships.

It was a stunning performance, considering it was the first time the relay record ever had been broken or tied other than in a final. And it was done without Lewis, who had run anchor on the six teams — either representing the United States or his Santa Monica Track Club — that had matched or bettered the record in the past 10 years.

"We don't need Carl Lewis on the end of a 400-metre relay team to run a world record — and we just proved it," said Cason, who ran a sensational second leg. "This is a dream relay team."

"I can't believe they're going to make us run again tomorrow (in the final)," the historic Drummond said. "We had no intention of going out and breaking the record."

The record-equaling performance by the U.S. relay team and the Americans' verbal jousting with the British team over sprinting supremacy carried more impact than Saturday's six finals, including a world record.

Russia's Ana Biryukova destroyed the record in the women's triple jump, soaring 15.09 metres (49 feet-6 1/4 inches) surpassing the mark of 14.97 (49-1 1/2) set by teammate Yolanda Chen this year.

In other women's finals, Junxia Wang led a 1-2 Chinese finish in the rough-and-tumble 10,000 metres, winning in 30:49.30, a world junior record and the fastest in the world in 1993, and Cubans finished 1-2 in the high jump, with teammate Quintero winning at 1.99 (6-6 1/4), then dedicating her victory to Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

In the men's finals, Switzerland's Werner Gunthor won his third straight world shot put title, throwing 21.97 (72-1), the farthest in the world this year; Kenya's Moses Kiptanui and Patrick Sang were 1-2 for the second straight championships in the 3,000-metre steeplechase, with Kiptanui timed in 8:06.36, the year's fastest, and Spain's Jesus Garcia took the 50-kilometre walk in 3:41:41, also the year's best time.

After the relay race, Drummond put on a show for the capacity crowd of 52,200 at Gottlieb-Daimler Stadium who had cheered wildly for the record holders. He fell to the ground in a mock faint, staggered around like a drunk and jokingly gestured to the fans.

When he and his teammates ran, however, they were all business. Especially Burrell.

As the new anchor man, he had the responsibility of bringing home the baton, the job usually reserved for Lewis.

"Carl came to my room last night and he said it's the first time



Russia's Ana Biryukova sets a new record of 15:09 in the triple jump (AFP photo)

in his international experience that he hadn't anchored the USA 4x100," Burrell said. "He told me if he had to have the stick off to anybody, he was glad it was me."

"I feel like I have to own up to that, because Carl's been a key-stone in track and field in the U.S."

"He's given me a great deal of responsibility."

While the U.S. team was flying on the track, Lewis was flying in the air — on his way home to Houston after having finished third in the 200 metres and fourth in the 100.

The Americans' sizzling show sent a strong message to the British team, which had been claiming sprint supremacy after Linford Christie won the 100 and John Regis was runner-up in the 200, ahead of Olympic gold medalist Mike Marsh and Lewis.

Asked if he was worried about the Brits in the final, Burrell said, "no concern whatsoever."

Drummond had the same feeling. "Tell them to bring a tank, because there will be a fight all night," he said. "We made a statement out there."

Christie wasn't convinced. "The talking is done tomorrow," he said with a sneer. "I thought I was running a semifinal. I didn't realize I was running a final."

The Brits ran a team of Jason John, Tony Jarrett, Darren Braithwaite and Christie. John and Braithwaite probably will be replaced by Colin Jackson and Regis for the final, giving the Brits a "dream medal team."

In addition to Christie's gold in these championships, Jackson set the world record in the 110-metre hurdles, while Jarrett and Regis won silver medals.

"It was their team for the final out there tonight," Christie said. "We've got ours saved for tomorrow."

The day's biggest controversy came in the combative 10,000 metres.

Kenya's Selina Barsosio, the third-place finisher, was originally listed as disqualified and stripped of the bronze medal. However, officials said it was a clerical mixup and there was no disqualification.

But Barsosio still was disturbed by the roughness of the race. "The American (Lynn Jennings) hit me and the Chinese were pushing from both sides," Barsosio said.

"There was a lot of jostling," said Jennings, who finished fifth.

The U.S. team appeared on its way toward a possible sweep in all four relays, as all four American teams won their semifinal heats. The Americans lead the medal standings with 22, includ-



The U.S. 4x100m relay team horsing around on the track after equalling the world record (AFP photo)

"One of the Kenyans was real physical. It was a very physical race. It was much more of a roller derby than I have ever been in before."

South African Elana Meyer, the 1992 Olympic silver medalist, was so upset with the physical contact that she dropped out of the race after 4,200 metres. "Obviously it was not the right decision to give up, but I've been pushed each lap," Meyer said. "It was terrible."

The U.S. team appeared on its way toward a possible sweep in all four relays, as all four American teams won their semifinal heats. The Americans lead the medal standings with 22, includ-

Nike says it's blameless in latest shoe incident. For the want of a good insect, Mark Craghan might have broken the American record in the 3,000-metre steeplechase at the World Championships.

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Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH  
♠ 4 4 2  
♥ K 5 3  
♦ A 8  
♣ J 8 6 4 3

EAST  
♠ 10 8 7  
♥ 9 8 4  
♦ J 10 9 6  
♣ K 7 3 2

WEST  
♠ A K Q 5 3  
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♦ 5 4  
♣ A 10

bidding: West North East Pass Pass Pass Pass

playing lead: Queen of ♠

correct technique in playing a requires more than the knowl-

how to cope with a specific on. Taking the right position

phase of the campaign can be d by a slip elsewhere, as this

rapidly illustrates. department endorses

raise to two spades on three

ups. The fact that the hand

a ruffing value and mostly

ards makes the simple raise

preferable to one no trump.

After the opening lead of the queen of diamonds, it looked like a simple contract — at worst, one loser in each suit except for trumps. Declarer took the ace of diamonds and drew two rounds of trumps, to get the bad news. Declarer cashed the ace and king of hearts and continued with a low heart from dummy. East ruffed, led a low diamond to West's nine, and scored another heart ruff for a one-trick set.

Declarer played the hearts well. Had South been able to limit East to one ruff, the contract would have been made. But that could have been accomplished by avoiding a slight mis-cue at the very first trick.

It required no deep play. Declarer should simply have let West hold the first diamond. Now nothing can hurt the contract. Declarer wins the diamond continuation and continues as before. Now, if East refuses to give partner a second ruff, if East refuses to ruff, declarer's queen wins and the last heart is ruffed on the table. Regardless of what the defense does, declarer can lose no more than three tricks.

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# Hout withdraws from PLO Executive Committee

BEIRUT (R) — Shafiq Al Hout, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) veteran representative to Lebanon, withdrew from the PLO Executive Committee Sunday, saying the organisation was being wrecked by problems over leadership, peace talks and finance.

Mr. Hout, 61, stopped short of resigning and appealed for an urgent meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) to stop the rot and rebuild confidence.

"As we await this (PNC) session I beseech every Palestinian to demand that it convenes and I find myself forced to suspend my work in the Executive Committee," he told Reuters in Beirut.

"I vow... to remain a loyal soldier for Palestine and the PLO, which I had the honour of taking part in building.

"I find it hard to witness its destruction, the liquidation of its institutions and the scarring away of its workers," added Mr. Hout, the PLO's chief representative to Lebanon since 1965.

He said it was no secret the PLO had political, financial and structural problems, and its leadership was responsible.

Asked whether he was therefore resigning from the Executive Committee which he was elected to in September 1991, he said: "A resignation is presented to the PNC. It is the only body which has the power of decision (on it). We were not elected by (PLO Chairman Yasser) Arafat. We were elected by the PNC.

"From now on until the session is convened, I will take no part in the work of the committee."

Mr. Hout is considered a moderate and behind-the-scenes player respected by many Palestinians for his part in building the PLO.



Shafiq Al Hout

cerning the outcome of the talks," he added.

The chief Palestinian negotiator to peace talks with Israel, Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, has demanded democratic reform of the PLO, including a collective leadership and the reactivation of PLO institutions to reduce Mr. Arafat's grip on the organisation.

Mahmoud Darwish, a PLO dove who played a role as a mediator between PLO leaders, resigned from the Executive Committee last week in protest at Mr. Arafat's leadership, peace talks policy and the financial crisis.

Mr. Hout said he and other leaders agreed at a PNC meeting in Algiers in 1991 to support the talks but found the PNC's principles and "red lines" — forbidden areas — for the negotiations were threatened or ignored.

He called for "all affected forces without exception" to take part in a PNC meeting.

Once one of the world's richest liberation movement, the PLO lost income from Gulf states angered by its sympathy for Baghdad during the crisis over the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

According to Palestinian officials in Jordan, the PLO is selling some prime real estate to raise some of \$125 million needed to cover unpaid salaries, pensions and welfare benefits. (See page 2)

Officials said that it had to suspend salaries in June for nearly 30 per cent of its 15,000 employees.

Palestinians say among those hardest hit are about 4,500 PLO fighters evacuated to Libya, Sudan, Yemen and Algeria after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.



ISRAELI GUARD KILLED: Ambulance men Sunday remove the body of a Soviet immigrant who was found shot dead at a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank about 10 kilometres outside Jerusalem where he was working as an armed guard. The Islamic Jihad in Palestine claimed the attack and said it was in retaliation of the week-long Israeli bombardment of South Lebanon which killed nearly 150 people and displaced 500,000 (AFP photo)

## Resignations, graft hit Yeltsin

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's foreign trade minister resigned at the weekend, declaring himself victim of a push for power by mafia bands, as a corruption scandal began eating into the heart of President Boris Yeltsin's government.

Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Sergei Glazev, 32, was summoned back to Moscow in mid-flight on Friday night, hours after leaving on a five-nation African tour.

He resigned on Saturday, the second minister to go in two days. Mr. Glazev, appointed in December, denied accusations by a presidential commission of chaos and graft in his department.

"We are now deciding what to do with a number of ministers," head of the presidential administration's control department Alexei Ilyushenko said, hinting at further departures.

"If things continue like this Russia may well turn into some kind of banana republic with coups, corruption, a complete lack of understanding between the branches of power," he told ITAR-TASS news agency.

In his resignation letter, Mr. Glazev accused Justice Minister Yuri Kalmykov and First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeiko, himself under investigation on corruption accusations, of hounding him from office.

Mr. Glazev told Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin he had won enemies by his recent introduction of new regulations cutting the number of firms allowed licences to export oil and metals.

"Opposition turned into open persecution of myself — at the moment we began implementing an automatic system of controls on the export of strategic raw materials and reorganising military-technical cooperation," Mr. Glazev said.

Russia has lost, at very least, millions of dollars through illicit export of metals and oil below world prices. Lucrative, well organised deals have spawned fortunes that inevitably bring political influence in a land of low-paid officials.

Behind it all, Mr. Glazev said, was "the struggle for power of

mafia bands, feeling their interests threatened by the actions of the ministry bringing order to foreign economic activity."

Mr. Glazev announced the new regulations shortly before a key final meeting of the corruption commission last week.

Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev condemned Mr. Glazev's allegations. "At a time when we need more than ever consolidation in the presidential and government structures such talk of infighting in the government... is deeply regrettable."

Mr. Glazev's departure came a day after Information Minister Mikhail Fedotov resigned, accusing parliament of moving to take control of the media. But Mr. Fedotov had long fallen into disfavour with Mr. Yeltsin who clearly wants a stronger figure in the post.

Several days earlier a deputy economics minister was sacked in connection with the presidential corruption probe and three weeks ago Security Ministry Viktor Barannikov was dismissed on unspecified charges of unethical behaviour.

## GCC to give \$400 million to Lebanon

MANAMA (AFP) — Six Gulf Arab states will give Lebanon \$400 million to help it recover from Israel's seven-day bombardment last month, officials travelling with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri said Sunday.

The sum would account for all but \$100 million that the Arab League promised on July 31, the officials said after Mr. Hariri arrived here for talks with Bahrain's emir, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa.

Mr. Hariri arrived here from Damascus, accompanied by Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid.

Saudi Arabia would give \$200 million, Kuwait \$75 million and Qatar \$35 million, while Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman would provide the remainder, they said.

No breakdown was available for the other three members of the six-month Gulf Cooperation Council.

The foreign ministers of the 21-member Arab League decided in Damascus on July 31 to provide emergency aid to rebuild tens of thousands of buildings destroyed or damaged in the July 25-July 31 Israeli bombardment of South Lebanon.

Some of the money was also meant for equipping the Lebanese army, which has deployed in the south.

The officials said the remaining \$100 million in aid would be provided by other Arab countries, including Egypt and Syria, with each disbursing \$10 million.

Bahrain's foreign minister, Sheikh Mohammad Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, told reporters after a meeting with Mr. Hariri his country would reopen its embassy in Beirut, closed since the 1975-1990 Lebanese civil war.

Mr. Hariri and Dr. Abdul Meguid were next scheduled to travel to Qatar on Sunday and to Oman on Monday.

The United Nations is also to launch a multimillion dollar project to help reconstruct areas of southern Lebanon ravaged by last month's bombardments.

## Michael Jordan: 'I've just got to move forward'

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. basketball star Michael Jordan, speaking publicly for the first time about his father's murder, said Saturday he was holding up well and must now get on with his life. "I'm doing fine," Jordan told reporters at a press conference. "I'm doing really good," he said. "I'm strong mentally and strong physically. And I've just got to move forward."

Jordan, who led the Chicago Bulls basketball team to three consecutive National Basketball Association championships, made the comment at a press conference at a golf tournament near Washington in which he played. Jordan issued a written statement in Chicago Thursday about the murder but had not spoken publicly about it until Saturday.

**Heart problems complicate Mother Teresa treatment**

NEW DELHI (R) — Mother Teresa is being treated in intensive care in a New Delhi hospital for malaria but her case is being complicated by her heart problems, a member of her Missionaries of Charity said Sunday. "She can't take the full dose of medicine to treat the malaria because it affects the heart and that's complicating her treatment," Sister Joanne told Reuters after visiting the Nobel Peace Prize winner. A hospital bulletin said Mother Teresa, who will be 84 on Aug. 27, had difficulty breathing Saturday night, a legacy of her long-standing heart problem. But the problem was treated successfully and she remained in stable condition in the intensive care unit of the All-India Institute for Medical Sciences, Delhi's top hospital, the bulletin said. It gave no indication of how long Mother Teresa would remain in hospital, but earlier reports from her doctors indicated she was in no immediate danger.

## Egypt frees suspects, gropes for new clues

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian authorities have released some 20 people held for questioning and have made no significant progress in their search for surviving members of the militant group that nearly killed Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfi.

Five days after the bomb attack on General Alfi's motorcade, police were still groping for fresh clues. They said it was still unclear how many militants took part in the attack or whether the bombs were set off by remote control, a timer or a fuse set by militants on the scene.

No suspects have been arrested, police said on Sunday.

The most important clues have come from identifying two of the attackers who were killed in the explosion. Diaedine Hafez, 21, was blown to pieces at the blast site and the second, Nazih Rashad, 34, died in hospital.

Police searched Mr. Hafez's apartment on Saturday and said they found assembled time bombs and boxes of explosives similar to those used in the attack on Tuesday. The place appeared to have been used as a factory to make bombs.

The entrance to the apartment had been booby-trapped but police dogs sniffed out the explosives. Police also found an ice-cream cart which they suspected the militants used to move explosives around without arousing suspicion.

Police said the two dead militants belonged to Al Jihad, which assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981. Both were "Afghan Arabs," who trained alongside Afghan guerrillas fighting the Soviet army in the 1980s.

The two would be assassins were members of the revolutionary Talaah Al Fatah (Vanguard of the Conquest), police said.

The attackers, waiting on a motorcycle, detonated a bomb as the minister's motorcade drove past them in what police believe was a suicide attack.

A statement faxed to the Associated Press said Jihad carried out the attempt on Gen. Alfi's life. It said it was in revenge for militants being tried and hanged in military courts set up by President Hosni Mubarak last December to fight a growing wave of militancy in Egypt.

Egypt, defying criticism by human rights groups, has carried out the largest wave of executions for political crimes in the country this century.

On Saturday, a military court condemned four militants to death for murder and plotting against the state, bringing to 25 the number of Islamists condemned to death since December.

The convicts, members of the militant Al Shawhiyyoon group, specialised in raiding Christian jewellers' shops and killing low-ranking policemen.

## Chinese ship moves closer to Gulf

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A Chinese freighter suspected by the United States of carrying chemical weapons components for Iran has moved closer to the Strait of Hormuz at the entrance to the Gulf, shipping sources said.

The U.S. Navy said meanwhile Sunday that its warships in the area continued to shadow the vessel.

The 21,000-tonne Yinhe, which arrived in the region on Aug. 3, has moved to within 50 kilometres of the entrance of the strait that leads to the Gulf, shipping sources in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) said.

"It is now moving in a small area in the south close to the strait off the Omani town of Dibba. But it is not in Omani territorial waters," one source said. "Two days ago, it was off the UAE port of Fujairah in international waters but it headed up towards Hormuz."

The sources said the vessel, carrying 700 containers, was getting food and fuel supplies from shipping companies in the area. They quoted owners of boats that reached the vessel as saying its 24 crewmen were fine.

The U.S. Navy, which has more than 10 warships in and around the Gulf, kept up its surveillance of the vessel but maintained it was not blocking its way.

"The ship is still under our surveillance but we are not obstructing its movement forward or backwards," a navy spokesman, Lieutenant Commander Bruce Cole, told AFP by telephone from his Gulf headquarters.

The United States has charged that the Yinhe was carrying chemical weapons precursors, thiodiglycol and thionyl chloride for Iran. But China has denied the charge, saying the 24 containers destined for Iran comprised only stationary, small metals and machine parts.

China has proposed inspection of the ship by a third party but said Washington has rejected the offer.

On Thursday, Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Qin Huasun launched a strong attack on the United States, accusing its navy of harassing the Yinhe and threatening to seek compensation.

Chinese and U.S. diplomats discussed the problem with UAE authorities last week but no details of the talks were revealed.

Chinese embassy sources said on Sunday they were still in touch with the UAE government to find a solution but they declined to elaborate.

"The U.S. side has seriously disrupted the normal navigation of the Chinese cargo ship. This is a fact which the U.S. side can not deny," Mr. Qin said in a statement distributed by the Chinese embassy in the UAE on Thursday.

## Rabin, army under fire over Lebanon

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned right-wing rivals Sunday to be careful about attacking the army after top generals came under harsh criticism over the deaths of nine soldiers in Lebanon.

Parents of fallen soldiers also appealed for an end to the political acrimony triggered by Thursday's disaster-Israel's worst casualty toll in Lebanon since 1985.

The controversy underscored questions about whether Israel's weeklong bombardment of South Lebanon a month ago, dubbed "Operation Accountability," had succeeded in distancing the threat of resistance fighters.

It also highlighted emotional questions of whether the military may be criticised in the course of battle, a particularly sensitive subject in this country where most men and women serve in the army.

Mr. Rabin's remarks at the weekly cabinet session Sunday followed attacks on the army by former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the right-wing Likud Party and former Chief of Staff Rafael Eitan, head of the rightist Zomet Party.

"The chief of staff should solve security problems and find solutions for terrorism instead of glorifying Assad," Mr. Shamir told Israeli radio Friday, referring to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Lieutenant-General Ehud Barak's had said in interviews that Syria appeared to be sticking to the unstated terms of the U.S.-brokered ceasefire achieved in Lebanon July 31.

Mr. Shamir also accused the generals, known to be decidedly more dovish than himself, of "politicising," and blindly following those who are leading us to a national catastrophe," apparently referring to Middle East peace negotiations over Israel conceding the occupied Golan Heights to Syria.

Mr. Rabin defeated Mr. Shamir in the 1992 elections which

ended 15 years of Likud domination in government.

Mr. Eitan was quoted as calling on Gen. Barak to resign over the Lebanon deaths.

Mr. Rabin, a former chief of staff who commanded the army during the 1967 Mideast war, opened the weekly cabinet session Sunday by saying that the government has complete confidence in the chief of staff and the army.

"Whoever objects to politicising the army should be careful about making such comments against the army, especially at this time," Mr. Rabin added. An official in Mr. Rabin's office confirmed the remarks carried by Israeli radios and the Itim news agency.

The controversy persisted after the meeting.

President Ezer Weizman, a former air force chief and defence minister, urged politicians who disagree with the peace talks to "savage attack the process and

not the army."

Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, a reservist general, said he was shocked by Mr. Shamir's outburst made "while the graves are fresh and the blood barely dry."

Benjamin Netanyahu, Likud's current leader, also hinted that he thought Mr. Shamir went too far. He said Israel had to be "careful in criticising the army because the army is dear to us."

Mr. Netanyahu accused the government of being too weak against Hizbollah, calling the ceasefire a joke and urging incursions deeper into Lebanon.

"In essence there is licence to kill our soldiers in the security zone," he said.

Some questions also were raised Sunday by an internal army investigation. Newspapers said initial probes showed possible intelligence-gathering and planning failure may have contributed to the high death toll caused by the roadside bombings.

## Diana spends 4 days in Bali and Sumbawa Island

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Britain's Princess Diana spent a four-day holiday at the tourist islands of Bali and Sumbawa, an official said. An immigration spokesman, Hariyo Subuyo, said Princess Diana arrived Monday from Colombo, Sri Lanka, with two other people aboard a chartered Canadian plane. He said the princess travelled to the resort island of Sumbawa, West Nusa Tenggara, about 1,050 kilometres (651 miles) east of Jakarta. She then spent a day at Bali before leaving on the same plane.

## Chinese twin critical after separation

PHILADELPHIA (AFP) — Angela, a tiny Siamese twin separated from her sister in a delicate operation, was still critically ill early Sunday as doctors remained tight-lipped on her chances of survival. The surgical team who performed a five-and-a-half-hour operation Friday to separate the baby twins, who were joined at the chest, said they would only be able to give a prognosis 72 hours after the operation. Doctors at the Philadelphia Children's Hospital had to reconstruct Angela's liver and heart to give her a chance of survival. But her sister Amy died during surgery.

## Clinton, daughter mobbed at farm fair

MARTHA'S VINEYARD, Massachusetts (R) — President Bill Clinton sparked pandemonium as crowds of people trying to get a glimpse of him surged forward, forcing Secret Service agents to form a protective ring around him at an agricultural fair. Mr. Clinton and his 13-year-old daughter Chelsea visited a farm and livestock show on this rural island off the New England coast, where the Clintons are spending a 10-day holiday. Residents and holiday-makers on the island had been reported to be fairly blasé about the president's visit. But that was not the case at the fairgrounds: Hundreds of people, many of them apparently waiting hours to see Mr. Clinton, created a nightmare for agents charged with protecting the president. Upon their arrival, Mr. Clinton and Chelsea took a look at an exhibit of arts and crafts inside an exhibition hall. As they emerged, Chelsea had a look of terror on her face when she saw the throng waiting outside. People pushed and shoved to get close to the president, and agents fought hands to form a protective ring around Mr. Clinton.

## Demjanjuk assured of U.S. entry — lawyer

TEL AVIV (R) — John Demjanjuk has been assured of U.S. entry papers once the Israeli supreme court that acquitted him of being Nazi guard "Ivan the Terrible" lets him leave the Jewish state, his lawyer said Sunday.

Israeli Chief Judge Meir Shamgar on Friday blocked Mr. Demjanjuk's release until at least Sept. 2 while Nazi hunters and Holocaust survivors angry at his acquittal seek a trial for other alleged war crimes.

"There is permission from the U.S. embassy the moment the court here will allow the departure of Demjanjuk," said Yoram Sheftel, lawyer for the 73-year-old former carworker extradited from the United States in 1986.

"The U.S. embassy will on the spot give the Israeli police a document called a parole and Demjanjuk will have the means to be able to return to the United States," Mr. Sheftel told Reuters.

He said the papers were arranged with the help of James Traficant, a U.S. congressman from Mr. Demjanjuk's home state of Ohio, who was in Israel last week on the family's behalf.

The court acquitted Demjanjuk on July 29, lifting a 1988 death sentence, because of doubts he was "Ivan the Terrible" of Treblinka camp in Nazi-occupied Poland during World War II.

But the U.S. Justice Department, American Jewish groups and U.S. Congressman Jerrold

Nadler of New York have been fighting Mr. Demjanjuk's return to the United States.

Evidence Mr. Demjanjuk was at Sobibor death camp, where 250,000 Jews died, and several other Nazi camps have prompted demands for a new trial from Nazi hunters, Holocaust survivors and other Jewish groups in Israel and the United States.

Petitioners against Mr. Demjanjuk release have until Sept. 2 to submit in writing their reasons for demanding another five-judge hearing. At that time Judge Shamgar could free Mr. Demjanjuk, order the hearing or schedule yet another hearing before a single judge on whether a five-judge hearing is justified.

Mr. Demjanjuk, 67, has been a guard at any of his camps.

His son John Demjanjuk Jr. and son-in-law Ed Nishnic left for the United States Saturday after waiting in Israel for more than three weeks hoping to escort him back to Cleveland, Ohio, where he settled after the war.

Mr. Sheftel said he expected their return to Israel shortly.

Mr. Demjanjuk had been expected back in Cincinnati, Ohio, for a Sept. 3 U.S. appeal court hearing on restoring his U.S. citizenship, revoked in 1981 because he concealed his wartime past.

Israel's government said earlier this month it was in the public interest to avoid a new trial because conviction was uncertain.

## Majali optimistic of 11th round

(Continued from page 1)

complicating Palestinian-Israeli negotiations were Palestinian attempts to get Israel recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as their political leadership.

He repeated Jordan's recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

"If there is no political recognition of the PLO, it will be difficult for Palestinians to negotiate details that will enable them to reach agreement with Israel."

"But there are many indications that the step (recognition) in this direction is moving... but it is going to be difficult and will take time," Dr. Majali added.

Dr. Majali said Jordan would never sign any peace deal on behalf of the Palestinians or the PLO and vowed to support them in their struggle to attain statehood and gain their political rights.

"We refuse to speak on behalf of the Palestinians," Dr. Majali said. "We provided the Palestinians with the umbrella of a joint delegation primarily to allow for the emergence of a Palestinian entity."

Dr. Majali said: "Jordan is committed to a negotiated settlement, but we will not sign a separate peace treaty with Israel. We are against unilateral agreements," Dr. Majali said. "We are advocates of a comprehensive solution and Jordan will not advance in the negotiations unless there is tangible progress on the Palestinian-Israeli dimension."

Dr. Majali said unlike Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians, Jordan and Israel have finalised

an agenda for discussions on major issues of contention between both countries.

Despite the progress, Dr. Majali said Jordan and Israel needed to resolve outstanding problems pertaining to water sharing, occupied Jordanian lands and refugees.

The premier said Israel has been encouraging Palestinian migration from the occupied territories by relaxing departure regulations for the Palestinian residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Dr. Majali said the number of Palestinians departing the territories each day reach "thousands," up from 800 at the beginning of 1993.

Dr. Majali also said that he saw new encouraging signs in efforts to mend fences with Gulf Arab states.

"Our hands are stretched wide open to them and things are promising with some of our brethren in the Gulf," Dr. Majali told the meeting. "We hope this will also be the case with others."

Dr. Majali said the peace talks "have helped Jordan overcome the misconception of its stance during the Gulf crisis" triggered by Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. He did not elaborate.

Dr. Majali said Jordan had been calling for Arab reconciliation since the start of the crisis because it was genuinely concerned by the dangers the emerging new U.S.-led world order would have on a fragmented region.

"We declare openly that if there is no Arab reconciliation, the new world order will impose things on the region instead of it being a party to forming and shaping matters," he added.

## Meeting focuses on 'code of honour'

(Continued from page 1)

Objectivity is another main principle that should be respected in the profession, he said.

If a journalist gets access to classified information he or she would be at a loss to publish it and gain publicity or be careful not to reveal secrets that might be harmful to the nation, Dr. Majali said. He said that the journalist should sacrifice his or her own interest of the sake of serving the national interest.

The front is a coalition of Muslim Brotherhood members and independent Islamists. Its members were resisting decision by the government to change voting rules after dissolving the old Parliament.

The front has so far declined comment on the King's move — condemned by most of Jordan's 20 political parties but welcomed by tribal leaders, the royally-appointed Upper House and dignitaries.

"The final decision will be taken by majority at a meeting of the IAF's 120-member Shura (consultative) council on Thursday afternoon," the front official said.

King Hussein ratified a new law on Tuesday, sweeping away a system under which each voter had as many votes as there were seats in his constituency. People will have only one vote each.

Most officials and politicians say the changes will tilt the balance in favour of mainstream.

## Islamist trend to take part in polls

(Continued from page 1)

traditional and tribal groups by reducing the power base of most parties and the front.

In an address endorsing the changes, the King singled out the front for criticism but explicitly urged it to shoulder its responsibilities as a leading political power.

In the past few days, he has promised free and fair elections and gone out of his way to encourage the 1.5 million eligible voters to take part.

Jordan, after almost four decades of absolute rule, began its return to democracy after 1989 price riots.

The front, formed after Jordan lifted a 1957 ban on political parties in October, is the Muslim Brotherhood's political arm.

With government support over the years, it was able to build solid grassroots support through a network of social and medical services and by maintaining a monopoly over mosques.

This helped them make huge gains in 1989 elections, the first in 22 years, when candidates ran as independents.